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15

April 1–August 31, 1780

Paul H. Smith, Editor

Gerard W. Gawalt and Ronald M. Gephart
Associate Editors

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Editorial Method and Apparatus

In its treatment of documents this edition of delegate letters strives to achieve a middle ground between facsimile reproduction and thorough modernization. The original spelling and grammar are allowed to stand except where editorial changes or insertions are required to make the text intelligible. For example, when a badly misspelled word is misleading, the correct spelling is inserted in roman type in brackets after the word. Moreover, words omitted through oversight have been supplied at appropriate places in italic type in brackets. Obvious slips of the pen and inadvertent repetitions are usually silently corrected. Capitalization and punctuation have been standardized according to certain conventions. Each sentence begins with a capital letter, as do all proper and geographic names as well as days of the week and months of the year. Doubtful cases have been resolved in favor of modern usage; otherwise the usage of the original texts has been followed. Generally, abbreviations, contractions, and monetary signs are preserved as they appear in manuscript except when they are ambiguous or misleading. On the other hand, the thorn and the tilde are consistently expanded. "Ye" always appears as "The," for instance, and "rēcvd" as "received." Likewise, "pr." and tailed *p*'s are always expanded to "per," "pre," or "pro," as the case demands. Finally, superscript letters are always lowered to the line.

Gaps in the text are indicated by ellipses in brackets for missing words and by blank spaces in brackets for missing numbers. Conjectural readings are supplied in roman type in brackets, and editorial insertions in italic type in brackets. Material canceled in manuscript but restored to the printed text is included in italic type in angle brackets ("square parentheses"). Marginalia in letters are treated as postscripts if not obviously keyed to the body of the document, and postscripts which appear without explicit designation are supplied with a *P.S.* in brackets. Documents are arranged chronologically, with more than one document of the same date arranged alphabetically according to writer. Documents dated only by the month or by the year are placed at the end of the respective month or year. Place-and-date lines always appear on the same line with the salutation regardless of their position in the manuscript.

A descriptive note at the foot of each entry provides abbreviations indicating the nature and location of the document when it was copied for this project, except for privately owned manuscripts whose ownership is explained. The descriptive note also contains information on the document's authorship if explanation is necessary, and endorsements or addresses are quoted when they contain more than routine information. Other editorial practices employed in this work are explained in the sections on editorial apparatus which follow.

TEXTUAL DEVICES

The following devices will be used in this work to clarify the text.

[. . .], [. . . .]	One or two words missing and not conjecturable.
[. . .] ¹ , [. . . .] ¹	More than two words missing; subjoined footnote estimates amount of material missing.
[]	Number or part of a number missing or illegible.
[] ¹	Blank space in manuscript; explanation in subjoined footnote.
[roman]	Conjectural reading for missing or illegible matter; question mark inserted if reading is doubtful.
[<i>italic</i>]	Editorial insertion in the text.
< <i>italic</i> >	Matter crossed out in manuscript but restored.

DESCRIPTIVE SYMBOLS

The following symbols are used in this work to describe the kinds of documents drawn upon. When more than one symbol is used in the descriptive note, the first to appear is that from which the main text is taken.

RC	recipient's copy
FC	file copy
LB	letterbook copy
MS	manuscript
Tr	transcript (used to designate not only contemporary and later handwritten copies of manuscripts, but also printed documents)

LOCATION SYMBOLS

The following symbols, denoting institutions holding the manuscripts in the present volume, are taken from *Symbols of American Libraries*, 13th ed. (Washington: Library of Congress, 1985). Each volume of this edition will contain a revised list.

CSmH	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, Calif.
Ct	Connecticut State Library, Hartford
CtHWa	Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford
CtHi	Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford
CtY	Yale University, New Haven
DLC	Library of Congress
DNA	National Archives and Records Administration
DNDAR	Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C.

ICH <i>i</i>	Chicago Historical Society
M-Ar	Massachusetts Archives, Boston
MA	Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.
MDaAr	Danvers Historical Society, Danvers, Mass.
MH-H	Harvard University, Houghton Library, Cambridge
MHi	Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston
MdAA	Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis
MdBJ-G	John Work Garrett Library, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
MdHi	Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
MeHi	Maine Historical Society, Portland
MiD-B	Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Mich.
MiDbEI	Edison Institute, Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village Library, Dearborn, Mich.
MiU-C	William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Mich.
N	New York State Library, Albany
NHi	New-York Historical Society, New York
NN	New York Public Library, New York
NNC	Columbia University, New York
NNPM	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
Nc-Ar	North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh
NcU	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Nh-Ar	New Hampshire Division of Archives and Records Management, Concord
NhD	Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
NhHi	New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
Nj	New Jersey State Library, Trenton
NjMoHP	Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, N.J.
NjP	Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
NjR	Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J.
OCiWhi	Western Reserve Historical Society, Cleveland, Ohio
PBL	Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa.
PHC	Haverford College, Haverford, Pa.
PHarH	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg
PHi	Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
PPAmP	American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia
PPIn	Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia
R-Ar	Rhode Island State Archives, Providence
RPB-JH	John Hay Library, Brown University, Providence
ScC	Charleston Library Society, Charleston, S.C.
ScHi	South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston

ScU	University of South Carolina, Columbia
Vi	Virginia State Library, Richmond
ViU	University of Virginia, Charlottesville

ABBREVIATIONS AND SHORT TITLES

Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield)

Butterfield, Lyman H., et al., eds. *Adams Family Correspondence*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Belknap Press, 1963-.

Adams, *Writings* (Cushing)

Adams, Samuel. *The Writings of Samuel Adams*. Edited by Harry A. Cushing. 4 vols. Boston: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904-8.

Bartlett, *Papers* (Mevers)

Bartlett, Josiah. *The Papers of Josiah Bartlett*. Edited by Frank C. Mevers. Hanover, N.H.: Published for the New Hampshire Historical Society by the University Press of New England, 1979.

Bartlett, *Records of R.I.*

Bartlett, John R., ed. *Records of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*. Vols. 8-10. Providence: Cooke, Jackson & Co., 1863-65.

Bio. Dir. Cong.

U.S. Congress. *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971*. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971.

Burnett, *Letters*

Burnett, Edmund C., ed. *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*. 8 vols. Washington: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1921-36.

Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings)

Clinton, George. *Public Papers of George Clinton, First Governor of New York, 1777-1795, 1801-1804*. Edited by Hugh Hastings and J.A. Holden. 10 vols. New York and Albany: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co. et al., 1899-1914.

DAB

Dictionary of American Biography. Edited by Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone.

Evans, *Am. Bibliography*

Evans, Charles. *American Bibliography*. 12 vols. Chicago: Privately printed, 1903-34.

Freeman, *Washington*

Freeman, Douglas S. *George Washington, a Biography*. 7 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1948-57.

Greene, *Papers* (Showman)

Greene, Nathanael. *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene*. Edited by Richard K. Showman et al. Chapel Hill: Published for the Rhode Island Historical Society by the University of North Carolina Press, 1976-.

Heitman, *Historical Register*

Heitman, F. B. *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army during the War of the Revolution, April 1775, to December 1783*. Washington [Baltimore]: Press of Nichols, Killam & Maffitt, 1893.

Jay, *Papers* (Morris)

Jay, John. *John Jay; The Making of a Revolutionary: Unpublished Papers, 1745-1780*. Edited by Richard B. Morris et al. New York: Harper & Row, 1975.

Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd)

Jefferson, Thomas. *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*. Edited by Julian P. Boyd et al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1950-.

JCC

U.S. Continental Congress. *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*. 34 vols. Edited by Worthington C. Ford et al. Washington: Library of Congress, 1904-37.

Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda)

Idzerda, Stanley J., et al., eds. *Lafayette in the Age of the American Revolution: Selected Letters and Papers, 1776-1790*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977-.

Lee, *Letters* (Ballagh)

Lee, Richard Henry. *The Letters of Richard Henry Lee*. Edited by James C. Ballagh. 2 vols. New York: Macmillan Co., 1911-14.

Livingston, *Papers* (Prince)

Livingston, William. *The Papers of William Livingston*. Edited by Carl E. Prince et al. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1979-.

Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson)

Madison, James. *The Papers of James Madison*. Edited by William T. Hutchinson and William M. E. Rachal. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962-.

Md. Archives

Archives of Maryland. Edited by William H. Browne et al. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1883-.

Mason, *Papers* (Rutland)

Mason, George. *The Papers of George Mason, 1725-1792*. Edited by Robert A. Rutland. 3 vols. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970.

N.C. State Records

North Carolina. *The State Records of North Carolina*. Edited by Walter Clark. Vols. 11-26. Winston and Goldsboro, N.C.: N. I. and J. C. Stewart et al., 1895-1914.

N.H. State Papers

New Hampshire. *Provincial and State Papers*. 40 vols. Concord, 1867-1943.

Pa. Archives

- Pennsylvania Archives*. 9 series, 119 vols. in 120. Philadelphia: J. Severns & Co., 1852-56; Harrisburg: State printer, 1874-1935.
- Pa. Council Minutes*
 Pennsylvania. *Minutes of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, from Its Organization to the Revolution*. 6 vols. [Colonial Records of Pennsylvania, vols. 11-16]. Harrisburg: Theo. Fenn & Co., 1852-53.
- Paullin, Marine Committee Letters*
 Paullin, Charles O., ed. *Out-Letters of the Continental Marine Committee and Board of Admiralty, 1776-1780*. 2 vols. New York: Printed for the Naval History Society by the De Vinne Press, 1914.
- PCC*
 Papers of the Continental Congress. National Archives and Records Administration. Washington, D.C.
- PMHB*
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography.
- Public Records of Connecticut*
 Hoadly, Charles J. et al., eds. *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut*. 11 vols. Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1894-1967.
- Rodney, Letters (Ryden)*
 Rodney, Caesar. *Letters to and from Caesar Rodney, 1756-1784*. Edited by George H. Ryden. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1933.
- Staples, Rhode Island*
 Staples, William R. *Rhode Island in the Continental Congress, 1765-1790*. Providence: Providence Press Co., 1870.
- Trumbull, Papers (MHS Colls.)*
 Trumbull, Jonathan, Sr. *The Trumbull Papers*. 4 vols. Massachusetts Historical Society Collections, 5th ser., vols. 9-10; 7th ser., vols. 2-3. Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1885-1902.
- Washington, Writings (Fitzpatrick)*
 Washington, George. *The Writings of George Washington*. Edited by John C. Fitzpatrick. 39 vols. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1931-44.
- Wharton, Diplomatic Correspondence*
 Wharton, Francis, ed. *The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States*. 6 vols. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1889.
- Wright, The Continental Army*
 Wright, Robert K., Jr. *The Continental Army*. Washington: Center of Military History, United States Army, Government Printing Office, 1983.

Acknowledgments

This edition began in 1970 as a project of the Library of Congress American Revolution Bicentennial Office, now incorporated into the Library's Manuscript Division as the Historical Publications Office. The Library has had a long tradition of publishing scholarship on the period of the American Revolution. Its monumental edition of the *Journals of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (34 vols., Washington, 1904-37) is a predecessor of the present work and will be a companion to it. The editors wish to thank the Ford Foundation for a substantial gift that has been indispensable to the progress of the edition. Our appreciation is also extended to the innumerable individuals who have contributed to enriching the holdings of the Library of Congress to make it the premier institution for conducting research on the American Revolution.

The photocopies of the more than twenty-two thousand documents that have been collected for this project have been assembled through the cooperation of several hundred institutions and private individuals devoted to preserving the documentary record upon which the history and traditions of the American people rest, and it is to their work that a documentary publication of this nature should ultimately be dedicated. Unfortunately, all the many contributors to this collecting effort cannot be adequately recognized, but for permission to print documents appearing in the present volume we are especially grateful to the following institutions: the American Philosophical Society, Amherst College, Archivo General de Indias (Seville), British Museum, Brown University, Charleston Library Society, Chicago Historical Society, William L. Clements Library, Columbia University, Connecticut Historical Society, Connecticut State Library, James S. Copley Library, Danvers Historical Society, Dartmouth College, Daughters of the American Revolution, Detroit Public Library, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, John Work Garrett Library, Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum, Harvard University, Haverford College, Henry E. Huntington Library, Independence National Historical Park, Lehigh University, Maine Historical Society, Maryland Hall of Records, Maryland Historical Society, Massachusetts Archives Division, Massachusetts Historical Society, Pierpont Morgan Library, Morristown National Historical Park, National Archives, New Hampshire Division of Archives and Records Management, New Hampshire Historical Society, New Jersey State Library, New-York Historical Society, New York Public Library, New York State Library, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, University of North Carolina, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Rhode Island State Archives, Rutgers University, South Carolina Historical Society, University of South Carolina, Virginia State Li-

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This work has benefitted not only from Edmund C. Burnett's path-finding 8-volume edition of *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress* but also from the generous cooperation of the editors of several other documentary publications with a common focus on the revolutionary era. From them the Library has borrowed heavily and to them it owes a debt it can never adequately acknowledge. It is a pleasure to give special thanks to the editors of the papers of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Laurens, James Madison, and George Washington. Finally we owe thanks to the historians who served on the Advisory Committee on the Library's American Revolution Bicentennial Program, and especially to Mr. Julian P. Boyd, Mr. Lyman H. Butterfield, and Mr. Merrill Jensen, who generously acted as an advisory committee for the *Letters* project.

Paul H. Smith
Historical Publications Office
Manuscript Division

Chronology of Congress

APRIL 1–AUGUST 31, 1780

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 1 | Debates plan for reorganizing quartermaster department. |
| April 3 | Rejects motion to hear Elbridge Gerry appeal. |
| April 4 | Authorizes defense of New York frontier at Continental expense. |
| April 6 | Resolves to send a committee to confer with Washington at headquarters. |
| April 8 | Authorizes partial reimbursement to Massachusetts for Penobscot expedition expenses. |
| April 10 | Authorizes depreciation allowances for Continental troops. |
| April 12 | Adopts instructions for Committee at Headquarters. |
| April 13 | Appoints Committee at Headquarters. |
| April 15 | Appoints Joseph Ward commissary general of prisoners. |
| April 17 | Rejects proposal to appoint a “resident” at the Court of Versailles. |
| April 18 | Authorizes depreciation allowances for holders of Continental loan office certificates; authorizes issuance of commissions to Delaware Indians. |
| April 20 | Resolves to draw bills of exchange on John Jay in Spain. |
| April 21 | Adopts measures for the relief of prisoners of war. |
| April 24 | Adopts appeal to the states to meet fiscal quotas. |

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| April 28 | Appoints Cyrus Griffin to Court of Appeals, William Denning to Board of Treasury. |
| May 2 | Revises commissions, bonds, and instructions for privateers. |
| May 5 | Doubles rates of postage. |
| May 10 | Adopts regulations for replacing destroyed loan office certificates. |
| May 15 | Three Georgia delegates attend, representing the state for the first time in more than a year. |
| May 17 | Considers Committee at Headquarters report presented by John Mathews. |
| May 18-20 | Debates La Luzerne memorial on Franco-American cooperation. |
| May 19 | Urges states to remit quota payments immediately. |
| May 20 | Urges states to meet troop quotas immediately. |
| May 22 | Urges Delaware to extend provisions embargo indefinitely. |
| May 23 | Debates Vermont controversy. |
| May 26 | Requests states to receive Continental certificates in payment of taxes. |
| May 29 | Debates Vermont controversy. |
| May 30 | Rescinds Committee at Headquarters instruction on the propriety of reducing the Continental Army. |
| June 1 | Adopts measures for defense of New York and New Hampshire frontiers. |
| June 2 | Censures Vermont settlers and pledges final determination of the Vermont controversy whenever nine "disinterested" states are represented in Congress. |

- June 5 Adopts plans for cooperating with anticipated French forces.
- June 6 Orders arms for southern defense.
- June 9 Postpones Vermont inquiry to September 12.
- June 12 Orders restrictions on the issuance of Continental rations; creates two extra chambers of accounts to facilitate settlement of staff department accounts.
- June 13 Appoints Horatio Gates to southern command.
- June 14 Adopts measures for the defense of the southern department.
- June 15 Issues circular letter to the states to reinforce the appeals of the Committee at Headquarters.
- June 19 Adopts measures to prevent and punish counterfeiting.
- June 20 Empowers John Adams to seek Dutch loan.
- June 21 Reaffirms commitment to Franco-American military cooperation; appoints an agent to transact U.S. affairs in Portugal.
- June 22 Endorses plan to establish a private bank for provisioning and supplying the Continental Army.
- June 23 Orders inquiry into the fall of Charleston, S.C.; reaffirms support for Georgia and South Carolina.
- June 28 Adopts plan for paying depreciation allowances to holders of Continental loan office certificates.
- July 3 Orders Admiralty Board to implement intelligence gathering plan.
- July 5–6 Debates plan to reform quartermaster department.

- July 7 Endorses La Luzerne's request to permit the shipment of provisions to Spanish forces in the West Indies.
- July 11 Orders publication of Congress' May 1778 resolution requesting that Articles 11 and 12 of the Franco-American treaty of commerce be revoked.
- July 13 Orders Washington to seek the exchange of General du Portail, chief of engineers.
- July 15 Reorganizes quartermaster department; continues Nathanael Greene in office as quartermaster general.
- July 17 Receives announcement of arrival of French fleet at Rhode Island.
- July 19 Opens debate on the court-martial of Dr. William Shippen, Jr., director general of hospitals.
- July 20 Suspends deputy quartermaster Henry Hollingsworth.
- July 25 Appoints Charles Pettit assistant quartermaster general.
- July 26 Orders deployment of Continental frigates to cooperate with French fleet; orders reforms in the department of military stores.
- July 27 Transfers responsibility for issuing privateer commissions and bonds to the office of the secretary of Congress.
- August 2 Lifts restrictions on Washington's operational authority; chides Committee at Headquarters.
- August 3-4 Debates Quartermaster Greene's resignation request.
- August 5 Appoints Timothy Pickering quartermaster general to succeed Nathanael Greene; orders Washington to confer with French officers to plan the expulsion of the enemy from Georgia and South Carolina.

- August 7 Instructs Washington on exchanging prisoners of war and on reinforcing the southern department.
- August 9 Authorizes drawing bills of exchange on Benjamin Franklin for the relief of the southern department.
- August 11 Dismisses Committee at Headquarters.
- August 12 Reforms department of military stores; responds to general officers' grievances.
- August 17 Commends General Rochambeau and the conduct of the French forces.
- August 18 Confirms court-martial acquittal of William Shippen, Jr.
- August 22 Orders punishment of abuses in the staff departments.
- August 23 Adopts regulations for the issuance of certificates in the commissary and quartermaster departments; authorizes drawing additional bills of exchange on Benjamin Franklin.
- August 24–25 Extends additional benefits to general officers.
- August 26 Exhorts states to implement Congress' March 18 resolves for exchanging Continental currency.
- August 29 Appoints committee to plan a "new arrangement of the civil executive departments."
- August 31 Receives news of General Gates' defeat at Camden, S.C.

List of Delegates to Congress

This section lists both the dates on which delegates were elected to terms falling within the period covered by this volume and the inclusive dates of their attendance. The former are generally ascertainable from contemporary state records, but the latter are often elusive bits of information derived from the journals of Congress or extrapolated from references contained in the delegates' correspondence, and in such cases the "facts" are inevitably conjectural. It is not possible to determine interruptions in the attendance of many delegates, and no attempt has been made to record interruptions in service caused by illness or brief trips home, especially of delegates from New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania living within easy access of Congress. For occasional references to such periods of intermittent service as survive in the correspondence and notes of various delegates, see the index under individual delegates. Until fuller information is provided in a consolidated summary of delegate attendance in the final volume of this series, the reader is advised to consult Burnett, *Letters*, 5:lv-lxiv, for additional information on conjectural dates of attendance. Brief biographical sketches of all the delegates are available in the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971*, and fuller sketches of more than half of the delegates can be found in the *Dictionary of American Biography*.

CONNECTICUT

Andrew Adams

Elected: May 11, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Eliphalet Dyer

Elected: January 6, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Oliver Ellsworth

Elected: January 6, 1780; May 11, 1780

Attended: April 1 to June 29, 1780

Titus Hosmer

Elected: May 11, 1780

Did not attend in 1780 (died August 4, 1780)

Benjamin Huntington

Elected: January 6, 1780

Attended: June 1 to August 31, 1780

Samuel Huntington

Elected: January 6, 1780; May 11, 1780

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

Richard Law

Elected: May 11, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Jesse Root

Elected: January 6, 1780; May 11, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

Roger Sherman

Elected: January 6, 1780

Attended: April 1-13; June 19 to August 31, 1780

Oliver Wolcott

Elected: January 6, 1780; May 11, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

DELAWARE

John Dickinson

Elected: December 22, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Thomas McKean

Elected: December 24, 1779

Attended: June 7? to August 28, 1780

Nicholas Van Dyke

Elected: December 22, 1779

Attended: July 27? to August 11? 1780

GEORGIA

Benjamin Andrew

Elected: January 11, 1780

Did not attend Congress

William Few

Elected: January 11, 1780

Attended: May 15 to August 31, 1780

Lyman Hall

Elected: January 11, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Richard Howly

Elected: January 11, 1780

Attended: July 6 to August 31, 1780

Edward Telfair

Elected: January 11, 1780

Attended: May 15 to August 31, 1780

George Walton

Elected: January 11, 1780

Attended: May 15 to August 31, 1780

MARYLAND

John Hall

Elected: December 22, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

John Hanson

Elected: December 22, 1779

Attended: June 14 to August 31, 1780

John Henry

Elected: March 31, 1780

Attended: June 23 to August 31, 1780

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer

Elected: April 7, 1780

Attended: June 2-10? 1780

Edward Lloyd

Elected: December 22, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

William Paca

Elected: April 7, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

George Plater

Elected: December 22, 1779

Attended: April 1 to May 19? 1780

Stephen West

Elected: March 31, 1780

Did not attend Congress

MASSACHUSETTS

Samuel Adams

Elected: November 18, 1779

Attended: June 29 to August 31, 1780

Elbridge Gerry

Elected: November 18, 1779

Did not attend April to August 1780

John Hancock

Elected: November 18, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Samuel Holten

Elected: November 18, 1779

Attended: April 1 to July 29, 1780

James Lovell

Elected: November 18, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

George Partridge

Elected: November 18, 1779

Attended: April 1-8, 1780

Artemas Ward

Elected: November 18, 1779

Attended: June 14 to August 31, 1780

NEW HAMPSHIRE

George Atkinson

Elected: June 27, 1780

Declined

Nathaniel Folsom

Elected: November 3, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

Samuel Livermore

Elected: January 1, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

Woodbury Langdon

Elected: November 3, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Nathaniel Peabody

Elected: November 3, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 11, 1780 (on mission with Committee at Headquarters, April 25 to November; committee discharged August 11)

John Sullivan

Elected: June 27, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

William Whipple

Elected: November 3, 1779

Declined

NEW JERSEY

Abraham Clark

Elected: December 25, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

John Fell

Elected: November 17, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

Thomas Henderson

Elected: November 17, 1779

Declined

William Churchill Houston

Elected: November 17, 1779

Attended: April 1 to July 17; August 9[?]–18[?] 1780

NEW YORK

James Duane

Elected: October 1, 1779

Attended: May 1 to June 29[?]; August 24[?]–31, 1780

William Floyd

Elected: October 1, 1779

Attended: April 1–4, 1780

Ezra L'Hommedieu

Elected: October 1, 1779

Attended: April 1–4, 1780

Robert R. Livingston

Elected: February 24, 1780

Attended: April 1–17; May 16 to July 13; August 16[?]–31, 1780

Philip Schuyler

Elected: October 18, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 3[?] 1780 (on mission with Committee at Headquarters, April 25 to August 3[?])

John Morin Scott

Elected: October 1, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

NORTH CAROLINA

Thomas Burke

Elected: October 26, 1779; April 30, 1780

Attended: April 1 to June 15[?] 1780

Cornelius Harnett

Elected: May 8, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Whitmell Hill

Elected: October 26, 1779; April 30, 1780

Attended: June 5 to August 31, 1780

Samuel Johnston

Elected: April 30, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

Allen Jones

Elected: October 26, 1779; April 30, 1780

Attended: April 1 to June 14[?] 1780

Willie Jones

Elected: April 30, 1780

Attended: June 22 to August 31, 1780

John Penn

Elected: May 8, 1779

Did not attend April to August 1780

William Sharpe

Elected: April 30, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

PENNSYLVANIA

John Armstrong, Sr.

Elected: November 12, 1779; May 31, 1780

Attended: May 30 to August 31, 1780

Jared Ingersoll

Elected: May 31, 1780

Attended: June 5 to August 9? 1780

James McLene

Elected: November 12, 1779; May 31, 1780

Attended: August 17–31, 1780

Timothy Matlack

Elected: May 31, 1780

Attended: June 1 to August 31, 1780

Frederick A. Muhlenberg

Elected: November 12, 1779; May 31, 1780

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

James Searle

Elected: November 12, 1779; May 31, 1780

Attended: April 1 to July 9, 1780

William Shippen, Sr.

Elected: November 12, 1779

Attended: April 1 to May 19? 1780

RHODE ISLAND

John Collins

Elected: May 5, 1779; May 3, 1780

Attended: April 1 to May 10, 1780

Ezekiel Cornell

Elected: May 6, 1780

Attended: June 5 to August 31, 1780

William Ellery

Elected: May 5, 1779

Attended: April 1 to June 2, 1780

Stephen Hopkins

Elected: May 5, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Henry Marchant

Elected: May 5, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Daniel Mowry

Elected: May 3, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

James Mitchell Varnum

Elected: May 3, 1780

Did not attend April to August 1780

SOUTH CAROLINA

Thomas Bee

Elected: February 1, 1780

Attended: June 6 to August 31, 1780

Nicholas Eveleigh

Elected: May 27, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Francis Kinloch

Elected: February 1, 1780

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

Henry Laurens

Elected: February 1, 1780

Attended: July 1 to August 12, 1780

John Mathews

Elected: February 1, 1780

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780 (on mission with Committee at Headquarters, April 25 to September; committee discharged August 11)

Arthur Middleton

Elected: February 1, 1780

Did not attend in 1780

Isaac Motte

Elected: May 27, 1780

Attended: July 17 to August 31, 1780

VIRGINIA

Theodorick Bland, Jr.

Elected: June 21, 1780

Attended: August 30-31, 1780

William Fitzhugh

Elected: June 18, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Cyrus Griffin

Elected: June 18, 1779

Attended: April 1 to June 13? 1780

James Henry

Elected: December 14, 1779

Attended: April 21 to July 6, 1780

Patrick Henry

Elected: June 18, 1779

Did not attend in 1780

Joseph Jones

Elected: December 14, 1779

Attended: April 24 to August 31, 1780

James Madison, Jr.

Elected: December 14, 1779

Attended: April 1 to August 31, 1780

John Walker

Elected: December 14, 1779

Attended: May 22 to August 31, 1780

Illustrations

View of Philadelphia

endpapers

“An East Prospect of the City of Philadelphia; taken by George Heap from the Jersey Shore, under the Direction of Nicholas Scull Surveyor General of the Province of Pennsylvania.” This detail is from an engraving by Thomas Jeffreys based on an etching of the city published in Thomas Jeffreys, *A General Topography of North America and the West Indies. Being a Collection of All the Maps, Charts, Plans, and Particular Surveys, That Have Been Published of That part of the World, Either in Europe or America* (London: R. Sayer, 1768).

Oliver Ellsworth

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Ellsworth (1745–1807), a Connecticut native and a student at both Yale and the College of New Jersey, turned early to the study of law and a career that eventually took him to the post of chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. At the outbreak of the American Revolution he represented Windsor in the Connecticut Assembly, but he soon moved to Hartford and subsequently served as state’s attorney for Hartford County, as a member of the Governor’s Council, and as a delegate to Congress for most of the period from October 1778 to July 1783. Thereafter he was elected a judge of the superior court of Connecticut, a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and a United States senator under the new Constitution, before his appointment to the Supreme Court in 1796. As a delegate to Congress, Ellsworth was a member of numerous committees, including such standing bodies as the Committees on Appeals, Foreign Affairs, the Marine, and the Treasury. He sat upon the hearing of the appeal in the noted case of Gideon Olmsted and the sloop *Active*, often labored on committees struggling with problems concerning the supply of the Continental Army, and during the period covered by the present volume was particularly interested in the response of the states to Congress’ March 18, 1780, resolution devaluing the Continental dollar.

Engraving by Albert Rosenthal. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-54670).

James Madison, Jr.

237

Madison’s years in the Continental Congress, 1780–83, 1787–88, represent only a small part of a long and distinguished career, but they were formative ones that significantly shaped his public life. He arrived in Philadelphia on his 29th birthday in March 1780 just in time to witness Congress’ repudiation of the Continental dollar, the collapse of congressional finances, and the failure of the “in-kind”

system of state requisitions for provisioning the Continental Army. As a result, he readily became a proponent of vigorous measures for restoring public credit, eventually urging proposals to ensure Congress a dependable revenue and even offering a motion for compelling states "to fulfill their federal engagements." As a member of the Board of Admiralty and of the committee for corresponding with the southern department, Madison gained experience in the Continental dimensions of congressional responsibilities, and the persistent vulnerability of Virginia to British invasion heightened his concern for improving the fighting capabilities of Washington's army. He also ably defended Virginia's claims to western lands in the face of efforts of the landless states to secure them in trade for Maryland's ratification of the Articles of Confederation, and he consistently opposed proposals to relinquish American claims to the navigation of the Mississippi River to curry favor with Spain.

One highlight of Madison's private life in Philadelphia was his courtship of the 16-year-old daughter of New York congressman William Floyd, Catherine, who seemed to have capitulated to his overtures when the couple marked their engagement in 1783 by exchanging miniature likenesses executed by Charles Willson Peale. But "Kitty" soon gave her heart to another, wounding Madison and leaving posterity the Peale watercolor on ivory reproduced here, a reminder of Madison's youthful appearance at that stage of his career, just four years before his work during the Federal Convention earned him the sobriquet "father" of the United States constitution.

Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress.

Treasury Office tables for the payment of
loan office certificates, July 29, 1780

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Faced with the collapse of the Continental dollar, staff department officers had increasingly turned to issuing commissary and quartermaster certificates to pay for military supplies and provisions, and by early 1780 these instruments seemed destined to follow the dollar to catastrophic depreciation. Continental loan office certificates, on the other hand, continued to stand as the "preferred" securities of the United States despite considerable erosion, and to maintain their value Congress pledged on April 18, 1780, to "make such provision for discharging . . . loan office certificates, as that the holders of them shall sustain no loss thereon, by any depreciation." Accordingly a plan was adopted on June 28 for computing a depreciation rate from September 1777 to March 1780 to enable loan office commissioners to pay "the full current value of the bills when loaned," and the Treasury Office implemented this congressional plan on July 29 by ordering the publication of a "Table for the Payment of Principal and Interest of Loans" pursuant to the June 28 resolutions.

The title page shown here is from a copy of the 23-page Treasury Office pamphlet in the Papers of the Continental Congress, National Archives and Records Administration.

John Mathews

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Mathews (1744–1802) studied law at the Middle Temple in London and was admitted to the bar in Charleston, S.C., in 1766. As the breach between Britain and her colonies widened, he took an active role in the resistance movement and served in the first and second provincial congresses before becoming a justice of the court of general sessions and speaker of the South Carolina assembly. He represented his state in Congress from 1778 to 1781, served as governor in 1782–83 during a difficult period of enemy occupation and withdrawal from Charleston, and was appointed chancellor (1784) and to the succeeding court of equity (1791) before retiring in 1797. In Congress, Mathews was a consistent supporter of Washington and the Continental Army, and of forceful measures to recover the southern states from British occupation. As a southerner, he opposed relinquishing American claims to navigation of the Mississippi River. He was often impatient with congressional procrastination and lethargy, and as a member of the Committee at Headquarters in 1780 he criticized Congress for indecision, angering colleagues and earning their contempt for having succumbed to the “camp mentality.”

Committee at Headquarters letter to George Washington, June 30, 1780. Washington Papers, Library of Congress.

William Few

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Few (1748–1828) lived his first 28 years in Maryland and North Carolina and his last 29 years in New York, but during the intervening 23, which were devoted primarily to public office, he was a Georgian. He was also clearly a self-made man, whose early years were devoted to agriculture but who turned to the study of law when he was in his mid-30s and eventually to the world of finance, before his retirement in 1816. Soon after moving to Georgia in 1776, Few applied himself to the work of securing Georgia's independence and defending the state against invasion, and by 1780 he had attracted sufficient notice to be elected a delegate to Congress. When Few took his seat with Richard Howly and George Walton on May 15, 1780, Georgia was again represented in Congress for the first time in more than a year. To judge from the paucity of Few's committee assignments, his congressional career was not conspicuous, although he worked diligently to combat rumors that Georgia might be abandoned by Continental negotiators at the peace table, and he hurried home in 1782 to convince his constituents of the necessity of quickly reestablishing the state's government to forestall such a possibility.

He was later returned to Congress during 1786–88, was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and sat in the first United States Senate from 1789 to 1793. He also had a brief judicial career in Georgia before moving in 1799 to New York. There he gradually entered the business of banking, but also served a number of years as a state assemblyman, as a New York City alderman, and as inspector of state prisons. These and other public service and philanthropic activities he recounted in an autobiography written late in life for his children, which remains the principal source of information for his varied and fascinating career.

Engraving by Albert Rosenthal. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-54671).

Nathanael Greene

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Greene (1742–86), a Rhode Island major general and the quartermaster general of the Continental Army, 1778–80, emerged from the American Revolution with a military reputation second only to that of Washington. He acquired the confidence of the commander in chief during the 1776 campaign and became entrusted with increasingly greater responsibilities until he was appointed to direct the quartermaster department early in 1778 after the army's frightful winter at Valley Forge. Although Greene's administration of the department resulted in many improvements for Continental troops, the great expense of the quartermaster service and continued decline of Continental finances fueled plans for a departmental reorganization, which the sensitive Greene regarded as criticism. He therefore requested a vote of confidence, which was refused, and after Congress proceeded to adopt a reorganization plan in July 1780, Greene resigned. Although his opponents attempted to dismiss him from the army altogether for this act of defiance, cooler heads prevailed and he was soon placed in command of the Hudson Highlands and shortly thereafter of the southern department in the aftermath of Gen. Horatio Gates' disastrous defeat at Camden. There he distinguished himself in a series of brilliant strategic maneuvers against the forces of the earl of Cornwallis until the latter finally withdrew from the Carolina interior to the coast in April 1781, a prelude to his entrapment at Yorktown in October.

Painting by Charles Willson Peale. Independence National Historical Park.

Willie Jones

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Jones (ca. 1741–1801) was sent to England as a boy for his education, and with his older brother Allen he spent some time at Eton and in travel in Europe before returning to North Carolina to take up the life of a wealthy planter and businessman at Halifax. He played

an active role in the movement to oppose British encroachments on American rights after 1774 and was elected to each of the five provincial congresses that laid the groundwork for North Carolina independence and statehood. He had a hand in drafting the North Carolina constitution, was a member of the state House of Commons, Senate, and Council of State during the revolution, and attended as a delegate to Congress from June to December 1780. Arriving in Philadelphia to take up his congressional duties just a few weeks after the fall of Charleston, Jones was especially occupied with obtaining arms and reinforcements for the southern department and disseminating intelligence of British military and naval threats to the south. He was elected a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787 but declined the position and subsequently opposed ratification of the federal constitution. Although he had been a powerful force in North Carolina politics for nearly two decades, his public career soon drew to an end after the organization of the new federal government which he had opposed.

Engraving by Albert Rosenthal. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (LC-USZ62-53537).

LETTERS OF DELEGATES
15
April 1–
August 31, 1780
TO CONGRESS

Elbridge Gerry to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Philadelphia 3d April 1780

I was honored on the 22d of February last, with your Letter inclosing a Resolution of Congress of the same Date; & having since been frequently informed by Members of the House, that there was a general Disposition therein, to consider with Candor my Letter of the 19th Feby last, I have patiently waited more than a Month for an Answer to the same.¹ I have also omitted to communicate the Affair to the State which I have the Honor to represent, lest their Harmony with Congress might be interrupted at a Time when the publick Interest renders it necessary, that every State should support them. But seeing no longer a Prospect of being restored to the privilege of a Member, or even of having my Claim to it considered, painful as it is to contend with a Body of which I have long been a Member, or to adopt any Measures which may appear inconsistent with an ardent Desire to promote their Dignity & Honor, I am nevertheless constrained by a Sense of Duty to my Country and Constituents, to enter into a full & free Discussion of this Subject, & to close it with Congress.

The Decision of Congress “that I was not in order in requiring the Yeas & Nays on a Question of Order” was, as I conceive, clearly against the Rules & Usage of the House, referred to in the Letter last mentioned.² Congress have undoubtedly a Right to alter these whenever they think it expedient, but they will give me Leave to deny their Authority, for determining that a Member is out of order, when he conducts agreeably to both. Had Congress at that Time thot it necessary, & actually passed a Resolution to discontinue the Yeas & Nays on questions of order, still it is difficult to conceive, that as impartial Judges, they could determine a Member to have been out of order, for using that privilege previous to the passing of such a Resolve.

If that Decission was intended as an Act for discontinuing this privilege, it may be necessary to enquire, how the States are to be informed of the Conduct of their respective Members in Congress? or, by what Means the Fountain of the Confederacy is to be kept pure, & Members supported in the faithful Discharge of their Trust? Perhaps it will be said, that the privilege of requiring the Yeas & Nays is still continued, excepting on questions of Order, & is sufficient for the purposes mentioned. But the Answer to this is plain, that the Conduct of Members may thus appear on all propositions decided by Congress; but will be concealed on all Motions by them suppressed, which is the particular Greivance now complained of under such Circumstances, if a Member makes a Motion, & a Majority are disposed to be arbitrary, they may call him to order, & silence him,

whilst strictly conforming to the Rules & Usage of the House—they may thus prevent propositions, however useful & necessary, from being considered by Congress—they may for partial or private purposes, devise & pass plausible Resolutions, & refuse to consider Motions for detecting the fallacy of, or for amending them—they may continue to debar particular Members from the Use of their privileges, &, by preventing Entries on the Journals, may conceal from the States, the Conduct of themselves, & others, in the premisses. Whereas, by continuing the Yeas & Nays on questions of order, every Member may have an Opportunity to check or expose such arbitrary proceedings; & the Stigma will rest on those who adopt them. But what is the Sense of Congress & of the several States on the Subject, in the Articles of Confederation? Therein it is expressly provided, “that the Yeas & Nays of the Delegates of each State *on any question*, shall be entered on the Journals, when it is desired by any Delegate;” from whence it is evident, that no Member can be deprived of the privilege of having the Yeas & Nays on a question of order, when the Articles of the Confederacy are fully ratified, without a direct Violation thereof.

If on the other Hand, the Decision was not intended to discontinue this privilege, I am no longer at a Loss for the Reasons of its not being entered on the Journals; because it would thus become a general Rule, & equally affect the several Members but the proceedings of Congress on this occasion, will still appear extraordinary; for they have not only adjudged a Member to be out of order, whilst strictly conforming to the Rules & Usage of the House, but leaving these unaltered, which establish the contested privilege, they have in Effect determined that Congress have a Right to support some, & restrain other Members in the Use of the same privilege, & have thus impaired that equal Representation in Congress, which is considered by the States so essential to their Liberties.

With Respect to the Resolution of Congress of the 22d of Feby last, relative to the Mode of hearing a Member who thinks himself aggrieved, It may suffice to shew, that it does not apply to the present Case. The Resolve is as follows “That any Member thinking his privilege infringed by anything said or done in the House, ought of Right to be heard in his Place.” It appears by the Journals of that Date, that the Words “& not otherwise” were moved as part of the original Proposition,³ & rejected by a Division of the House; by What Rule of Construction then does the Resolve determine, that a Member shall not “be heard” *unless* “in his Place”? But should even this be admitted, yet it is presumed, that Congress did not mean to subject a Member to an *ex post Facto* Act, which under the Appearance of regulating the Mode of supporting his Claim, materially affects the Claim itself. When an essential privilege of a Member is infringed *by Congress*, & he cannot obtain Redress, it becomes his Duty to appeal to his Constituents; and how is he to make his Conduct appear, if in

defending his privilege he is confined to the Mode prescribed by the Resolve? Should he propose *in his place* any Entry to be made on the Journals, Congress may prevent it; & if he is unguarded in his Expressions to the House, they may order the same to be recorded, whilst those of other Members to him, however exceptionable, may pass unnoticed. An Instance of this happened at York Town, & may occur to the Memory of a Gentleman now in Congress,⁴ who will do me the Justice to acknowledge, that with him I then opposed such ungenerous proceeding;⁵ but if his Opinion is altered, as it Appears to be on this occasion, he has undoubtedly a precedent to support it. Indeed had the Resolve applyed, what it proposes has been done in the present affair, & without Effect: for it is well known, *that* the Member *in his place*, repeatedly required the Yeas & Nays on the Question of order, *that* when the Right was disputed, he produced in its Defence, the Rules & Usage of the House; & *that* he considered the Decision, as having the Appearance of an arbitrary proceeding. It is evident by the Journals, that when the Resolve was under Consideration, a paragraph for taking the Sense of Congress on Matters of privilege "in preference to any other Business" was expunged from the original proposition, by a Vote of the House: this, together with the Resolve itself, which involves a plain question of privilege in Disputes about the Mode of claiming it, has eventually been the Cause of deferring an Answer to my Requisition of the 19th of February, untill Gentlemen have had an Oppertunity of carrying thro' their favorite plan, then under Consideration. And if it was the Intention of Congress, by that Vote to negative the paragraph, a Majority of the House may at any Time avoid the Opposition of a Member, by depriving him of his privilege & obliging him to submit to the Greivance, or withdraw from the House during their Pleasure. Upon the Whole, sir, Is it not evident from undeniable Facts, *that* a Member of the House has been thus compelled to an explicit Remonstrance against their proceedings? *that* he has contended *merely* for the essential privilege of manifesting his Conduct in Congress? *that* he is justly responsible for his own, but not for another's Conduct, *that* in claiming his privilege, he has neither received that Support nor Attention, which as a Member he had a Right to expect? & that he is under the disagreeable Necessity of submitting to a dangerous Attack, made thro him, on the *Liberties of the House*, or of referring the Matter to his Constituents? These are Considerations which, however veiw'd by the House, are weighty in his Mind, & have made it his Duty to adopt the alternative, whilst he thinks himself deprived of his Seat in Congress. I have the Honor to be sir, with the highest Respect, your most obedient, & most humble Servt.

E. Gerry

when his call for the "yeas and nays" was ignored during debate on February 18, see Gerry to Huntington, February 19, 1780, note 1.

Although Congress rejected a motion this day by Gerry's colleague George Partridge to take up Gerry's protest the following day, the delegates did return to the subject on April 15, for which see Gerry to Huntington, April 17, 1780.

² See Gerry to Huntington, February 19, 1780, note 2.

³ The journals indicate that the phrase "& not otherwise" was actually proposed, by Thomas Burke, to amend the resolve after a previous amendment had been rejected. *JCC*, 16:184-85.

⁴ That is, Thomas Burke, whose imbroglio with Congress over a point of privilege in April 1778 was discussed in these *Letters*, 9:403-7, 501-2, 508-10, 525-39, 548.

⁵ The journals contain no evidence of an active role by Gerry in the Burke affair. *JCC*, 10:334, 385-91.

William Ellery to William Greene

Sir,

Philadelphia April 4th. 1780.

I received your excellency's favour of the 8th of March and advert to the contents of it.¹ You are pleased to inform me that the Genl. Assembly, at their Session held on the fourth Monday of February, passed a resolve to raise 810 men *including those already raised in Col Greene's and Col. Angels regiments*. You then mention the proposed bounty &c and proceed to say "That when you consider *there is one half of the above number of men now to be raised there being about one half of them now in Cols. Greene's & Angel's regiments*" &c &c. Your Excellency must have attended to the words of the resolution of Congress immediately following the adjustment of the Quotas to wit, "That all the men whose times of service do not expire before the last day of Sepr. next, be counted towards the quotas of the States to which they respectively belong, whether they compose the battalions in the lines of the several States, those of the additional corps, including the guards, the artillery and horse or the regimental artificers in the departments of the quarter master general and commissary general of military Stores who being credited to the states respectively should be provided for, deemed and treated in the same manner with the men in the several state lines" &c &c.² Now, Sir, if we have any men, belonging to our State, in Col Sherburn's regiment in the guards &c &c whose times do not expire by the last day of next Sept, and I imagin we have, they must be counted towards our quota, and of consequence included in the number of our men as well as those in Green's & Angel's regiments; and therefore, if the supposition I have made proves true we shall not have one half of our quota to raise, if about one half of it is now in Greenes & Angels regiments. I have been the more particular because I should be very sorry to have a State whose quota is disproportioned to its abilities, attempt to do more than is required of it. Sensible that our quota was too large I

moved and urged that it might be reduced to 700; but could not get Congress to agree to it. When the Arrangement was made at York Town,³ One regiment only was assigned to us; and perhaps if we had not been so forward to raise a regiment of blacks, without the request or even the knowledge of Congress, one regiment only would now have been required. Our State hath sometimes by too great an ardour injured itself. When the account hinted at comes forward I shall exert myself to have it paid, and shall take notice of the bounties we have proposed to pay, & make use of every other argument to accomplish the wishes of the State which my invention can suggest.

Your Excellency requests, if I should find it necessary that I would write to Genl. Washington on the subject of one of our States regiments being stationed this campaign within the State. I could not think it necessary; for if I had known what your excellency had written I have not the vanity to imagine that I could have suggested any additional argument or enforced what you must have urged. However as it seemed to be your desire, and as I shall always consider your desires, tho not fully expressed, as commands, I have also written to the Genl. on that head,⁴ and shall esteem myself very happy if my efforts should contribute a mite towards the granting of so reasonable a request. I wish the Genl. Assembly may succeed; but when I consider that the troops of the Virginia and No. Carolina line are gone to the Southward, and that he chuses and it is necessary that he should have a respectable army with him, I cannot promise myself that the application will prove successful.

The board of Admiralty, of which I am a member, received by last Tuesday's Post a letter from your excellency, informing them that the Pigot Galley was so rotten and so dull a Sailer that She was unfit for service, and proposing that she should be sold, all but her military stores, and another vessell purchased for a cruiser. The board sometime ago received a Letter from the Capt. of her proposing that She should be repaired and fitted out for a cruiser; they being well informed that she was but a dull sailer, that it would cost much to repair and fit her, knowing too that it was not the intention of Congress, that the Vessels procured in pursuance of the resolution for the defence of our bays & rivers should be employed as cruisers; and further thinking that the Pigot Galley might, in her present condition, afford some protection to those places were content that she might be so employed; of which I have given notice to Capt Clarke in a late letter. If Congress were disposed that a suitable vessel should be provided for the purpose you mention, which I am far from thinking they would admit; yet such is the State of the Treasury that they have it not in their power to purchase a peice of one. Indeed We have two vessels on the Stocks and for want of money we cannot even launch them. If the Galley is of no use to our State I could wish to be informed of it; for it would be wrong to keep a vessel with a

number of hands that is of no service. Willing to serve the State, thinking that the Galley might be of some benefit, and being fully sensible if She was sold it would be impossible to supply her place; because the proceeds would be otherwise applied, I induced the board to consent that she should be continued in the service. I shall put off if I can any determination on your letter until I receive an answer to this; because I plainly perceive the majority of the board will be for selling her and placing the money on the Ships now building.⁵ I am with great respect Yr Excellency's most obedt. Servt,

William Ellery

P.S. By a letter from Genl. Washington yesterday⁶ we are advised that a fleet from Cork of 45 sail had arrived at N. York and that he was informed that the enemy there were taking up transports; perhaps, I say, to carry a reinforcement to Genl. Clinton to supply the losses he sustained in his passage. Genl. Clinton the 12th of May [*i.e.* March] was at James-Island and had not made an Attack on Charlestown.

W.E.

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Governor Greene's March 8 letter to Ellery is in Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 276.

² For this February 9 resolution, see *JCC*, 16:150-51.

³ See these *Letters*, 9:186, 371.

⁴ See Ellery to Washington, March 29, 1780.

⁵ In his April 17 reply, Greene informed Ellery that the *Pigot* had been sent to Providence "to be properly secured until further order." Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 279.

⁶ Washington's March 28 letter was read in Congress on April 3. See *JCC*, 16:322; PCC, item 152, 8:475-80; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:169-71.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

Philadelphia April 4. 1780.

I take the Liberty to enclose to your Excellency the two last papers published here¹ which contain some information from Europe that your Excellency may not have been furnished with.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obed. huml Servt.

Oliver Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Ellsworth probably enclosed April 4 issues of the *Pennsylvania Packet* and the *Pennsylvania Evening Post*, which contain news of the British capture of a large Dutch fleet carrying naval stores to France, and accounts of a new peace proposal "said to be, that America shall be put on the same footing as Ireland."

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir.

Philadelphia April 4th. 1780.

I have the Honor of enclosing several acts of the General Assembly

of the state of New-Jersey, and you will perceive they are desirous of an interchange.¹

The committee that has under consideration the affair respecting the charges of the Penobscot expedition have not yet reported, but when I consider, it is no more than just, that the united States should pay the reasonable expences, I don't *even* doubt, but that Congress will be of the same opinion & determine accordingly.²

The business respecting the New-Hampshire grants (so called) is not to be taken up 'till nine states are represented in Congress, exclusive of the states which are supposed to be interested, & it is not my expectation that it will be determined upon at present, nor my desire that it shou'd 'till after the war.

We have no intelligence from the southern army since about the first of March.

The Honorable Mr. Partridge being about taking leave of us in order to return, he will be able to give the Honorable assembly the best information respecting affairs in Congress.³

I have the Honor to be with the highest respect, Sir, your most obedient servant;
S. Holten⁴

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "The Honorable The President of the Council of Massachusetts-Bay."

¹ Precisely which New Jersey acts were enclosed by Holten is not known, but he may have enclosed a copy of public acts of the New Jersey legislature for either the October 1779 or February 1780 session, for which see Evans, *Am. Bibliography*, nos. 16883 and 16884. New Jersey had also expressed a desire for a legislative "inter-change" the previous year. See these *Letters*, 13:405-6.

² Congress resumed debate on Massachusetts's request for Continental funding of the Penobscot expedition the following day. See James Lovell to Samuel Adams, April 9; and Samuel Huntington to Jeremiah Powell, April 14, 1780.

³ Holten subsequently noted George Partridge's departure from Philadelphia in his diary entry of April 9. MDaAr.

⁴ Holten had also written a brief letter to the Board of Treasury the previous day seeking a warrant for \$5,000 ("for which the state I have the Honor to represent will be accountable"), a request that Congress acted upon on April 5. *JCC*, 16:331. The draft of Holten's letter to the Treasury is in the Holten Papers, DLC.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 4 April 1780

I know Your Excellency's awakened Attention to the publick Good, and take the Liberty to express to you the keen and oppressing Anxiety I feel at present respecting the Situation of our national Affairs. The Army is again suffering for want of Provisions; the Departments halting and deranged; Money inadequate to their Demands for procuring the Supplies; the Campaign opening upon us.

This is really a more critical Predicament than that of the End of the year 1776, because the Danger was then visible and every Individual was struck with the Necessity of immediate Exertion; now it is not before the Eyes of the Community, even the Legislatures themselves are not adequately roused. It has become absolutely necessary to change the Modes of Supply to avoid ruin, and the System of State-purchases is not yet in Operation. It is to be confessed that all the Measures, preparatory and not yet adopted and therefore the Legislative and Executive of the States are not blameable that our Affairs are not in a better Train. However enough is done and enough is seen to engage their immediate and constant Attention. Our Situation being critical, I would suggest to Your Excellency whether it would not be advisable that you and the Privy Council should be frequently together. If any Thing is within your Power, there never was a Time when the Practice of that Power was more indispensable. Our State has done a great Deal, has suffered a great Deal, and it seems as if a principal Dependence must still be placed upon them for some Time. Much as they have done and much as they have suffered, and however good a Right they have to be wholly relieved, it is certainly better to strain to the utmost, than that worse Consequences should ensue. The State of Pennsylvania are getting ready, but somewhat slow. It is in their Power to do much, and I trust when they get into Action their Exertions will be of great use, but no Man ought to trust his neighbour but try to do every Thing without him; all that is then done by others is clear Gain.

I doubt not your Excellency has seen the Proceedings of Congress of the 18th ulto, and the proposed Act of the State of Pennsylvania founded thereon and published for the Consideration of their Constituents.¹ I wish your Ideas upon them, and whether the People will give them the necessary Support. Excuse me in the midst of Hurry and Interruption and believe me your very obedt. hble Servt,

William Ch. Houston

P.S. I am not well informed whether the Law gives the County Contractours Power to transport the Provisions and Forage to the Army, as well as to buy them. I wish it were if it is not, for it is better to buy half a Quantity of Provisions and carry them to the Army, than the whole and let it lie where purchased.

RC (NN: Livingston Papers).

¹ The Pennsylvania Assembly had resolved on March 23 to publish in the newspapers its draft of "An Act for funding and redeeming the Bills of Credit of the United States . . . founded on the Act of Congress of the 18th Instant." See, for example, the *Pennsylvania Packet*, March 25, and the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, March 29, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir, Philadelphia April 4 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 27th Ultio by which you will be informed that the recommendation of Congress of the 17th of August 1779 in their Opinion makes Provision for the Case of the Widow and Children of the late Lieut Colo John Sayer.¹

Also another act of Congress of the 30th ulto,² requesting the Executive of the State of Virginia to supply a sufficient Quantity of Provision for the Use of the Convention Prisoners and their Guards at the Post at Charlotte Ville—Such Supplies to be credited to the Quota of Provisions required of that State by the resolution of the 25th of February last. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, your Excy's hble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (Vi: Continental Congress Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For these resolves, and one of November 10, 1779, adopted by the Virginia Assembly in pursuance of Congress' recommendation that the states make provision for the widows of Continental officers, see *JCC*, 14:975-76, 16:254, 290; and *PCC*, item 70, fols. 349-50. The Virginia resolve concerning Lt. Col. John Sayres of the 9th Virginia Regiment, who had been killed during the battle of Germantown, was submitted to Congress on March 13, 1780. It is misfiled in *PCC*, item 70, a collection of "Maryland and Delaware State Papers."

² *JCC*, 16:317-18.

James Lovell to Samuel Adams

Dear Sir, April 4th 1780

As Mr. Partridge will probably be on his Way in a day or two and Mr. Adams certainly Tomorrow I must either leave you to the former, or to a Chance of my being able to write at large by the later, for a Detail of our Affairs which are much at a Stand. We print not money we are called on for millions we are in no Preparation for the Opening of a Campaign: We know not whether the States will furnish either Men or Money as we have requested. It is true, this State is about emitting pounds, Shillings & Pence instead of Dollar Currency, Perhaps Connecticut is going into that same Practice. This tends in a measure to disjoint Unity. It was foreseen. But there appeared a universal Consent to deprive Congress Money of Value tho' that Consent at first founded the Currency. We dropped Money making. We, as a Congress, are worse off than if we had continued; will the People consent to see themselves better off. Am I not in the Hippo this morning from having only Opportunity to judge upon a single

and diabolical Part of the continental Race? I suspect I am—and will proceed no further till in another Temper of Mind.

Affectionately Yours,

J L

[P.S.] I sent for Cheapness sake to Lancaster for a pr. of Leather Breeches. They are arrived at first Cost 200 the Skin 130 the making 330 Dollars. And yet this is called cheap because Mr. Ned Livermore, a Youth now with his Father in this Family, paid for a Pair much inferior in Size & Quality 320 Dollars.

RC (NN: Adams Papers).

New York Delegates to George Clinton

Sir

Philadelphia April [4, 1780]¹

Your Excellencys letter of the 9th ult. Covering the Resolutions of both houses of the Legislature of the 8th March, and Your Letter to Congress were delivered us Yesterday. The President read Your letter and a Committee was appointed to report on It, from what passed In the house on the Occassion we have not a doubt but the requisition on the part of the State will be fully complied with.²

We shall do ourselves the honor to adress you on the Subject of the Vermont business In a few days.³

We have the honor to be, with the highest Sentiments of Respect & Esteem, your Excellency's Most Obedient Servants,

Jno. Morin Scott

Robt R Livingston

Ph. Schuyler

Wm. Floyd

Ezra LHommedieu

RC (DLC: George and James Clinton Papers). Written by Schuyler, and signed by Schuyler, Floyd, L'Hommedieu, Livingston, and Scott. Endorsed: "April 4th 1780. Letter from the Delegates in answer to the Govrs. of the 9th Ult. cov'g Resolution of Legislature respect'g the rais'g of Men for the Defence of the Frontiers."

¹ RC damaged; day and year supplied from endorsement.

² Governor Clinton's March 9 letter and the enclosed resolution calling for Continental aid for defense of the frontier were read in Congress on April 3 and referred to committee. This day Congress authorized raising 800 militiamen at Continental expense for defense of the New York frontier. An additional 150 men were also authorized by Congress for this purpose on June 1. *JCC*, 16:325, 327-28, 17:478. Clinton's letter and the enclosed New York Assembly resolve are in PCC, item 67, 2:238-49.

³ See New York Delegates to Clinton, May 21, 1780.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 5, 1780]

5. Wednesday. Congress approved of Genl. Washingtons sending Maryland and Delaware troops to So. Carolina.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ See the following entry, note 6.

Philip Schuyler to George Washington

My Dear Sir:

Philadelphia April 5th, 1780

On the 3d Instant I was favored with Your Excellency's letter of the 30th ult.¹

I have for ten days Successively deferred writing In hopes that I Should have been able at last to have advised you that public business was closely attended to In this quarter,² and that we had adopted Measures to disencumber us from that variety of embarrasment we experience, but alas! We have made little or no advances.

Mifflin, Pickering, Jones and General Sherman have furnished the first part of a Voluminous system for the Quarter master department. The Second part is to direct the Commissary General of Issues in the discharge of his Duty, and the third will point at the regulations for the Hospital. I do not mention the purchasing Department because that is to be abolished, the States are to do All; As General Sherman roundly asserts this System will strike off four thousand Officers from the Civil departments, as It is replete with absurdity and petiness It will pass into a law, unless It Should be thought proper to Confer with the Commander In Chief on the Subject. There has been some wicked work respecting a Certain appointment which Gen. Greene will advise you of Verbally.³

The Gentleman I have last mentioned adressed Congress in a letter of the 3d Inst wishing for their Sense on his Genral Conduct in the QMaster department,⁴ a Resolution was proposed, that Congress had full Confidence In his Integrity And Ability, and requesting his future exertions—this brought on much debate, amendments were moved, and the house got Into heats, and an adjournment was deemed necessary to give the members time to Cool. A member more zealous for the Generals reputation than prudent, Observed that he was an officer In whom the Commander In Chief had the highest Confidence, that he was the first of all the Subordinate Generals In point of Military knowledge & ability, that In case of an Accident happening to Gen. Washington he would be the properest person to Command the Army, *And that General Washington thought so to*, another Observed that, he had a very high Opinion of G. Greens Military abilities, that he believed the General had too, but that he believed no person on Earth was Authorized to say as much as the words above Scored, Implied. I mention this that your Ex. may guard against any misapprehensions which this may occasion with Your officers. Gen. Greene will Inform you who delivered the Imprudent Speech.⁵

Yesterday Your letter of the 2d was read, there appeared a disposition in Many to leave the whole business which was the Subject of It, to Your discretion.⁶ Great part of the Morning was Spent on the Subject before the resolution took place which will be transmitted by the President.

Some days Since I moved for a Committee to prepare a letter to the States to Call on them for Exertions more Competent to the Great Object we have In view. After some Altercation a Committee was appointed. Elsworth, Muhlenberg & Schuyler composed it. They prepared the letter and reported but Some Gentlemen were averse at the decisive plainness with which we Intended Congress Should address the States whilst others Contended that we should speak Still more pointedly, after a whole days Debate the letter was recomitd.⁷

I have Intreated Gen. Greene to remain a day or two longer In town that I may be able to advise with him on the Measures necessary to be procured to prevent the Ill Consequences of his being drawn to the necessity of a resignation which I conceive would at any time be an Event to be much lamented but In the present Conjunction ruinous.

Pray Intreat Mrs Washington to Accept of my respects and the Gentlemen of the Family those wishes which my Esteem for them Induce. I am Dr Sir with perfect Esteem & the Sincerest Affection,
Your Excellencys Obedient Servt, Ph Schuyler

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Schuyler was undoubtedly referring to the general's letter of March 31, 1780, which is printed in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:185-87, from the draft in the Washington Papers, DLC.

² Schuyler's last letter to Washington was dated March 22, 1780.

³ It could not be determined to which "Certain Appointment" Schuyler was referring, but Nathanael Greene complained in his second April 3 letter to Huntington about "the injury I felt by the late appointments of Superintendants of the Staff Departments." PCC, item 155, 1:237.

⁴ In this April 3 letter to Congress, Greene had explained that he had been sent to Philadelphia by Washington to discuss quartermaster affairs with Congress but had been waiting a whole week for the delegates to signify interest in conferring with him, and proposed returning to camp "the day after tomorrow" if he continued to be ignored. See *JCC*, 16:326; and PCC, item 155, 1:236-39.

⁵ The delegate who delivered this "Imprudent Speech" is not known. There is no mention in the journals of either the resolution or the debate.

⁶ In his April 2 letter to Congress, Washington proposed to send additional troops to the southern department and asked "the sense of Congress on its expediency." PCC, item 152, 8:487-90; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:197-200.

Because Washington's "Letter of the 2d" was read in Congress on April 5, Schuyler probably did not write this letter at a single sitting and completed it on April 6. Washington's letter was endorsed by Secretary Thomson: "Letter from Gen Washington, April 2. 1780. Read April 5th."

⁷ Schuyler had first proposed a congressional letter to the states on "the necessity of procuring and forwarding immediate supplies of provisions &c for the army" on March 28, but nearly a month elapsed before the delegates reached agreement on its final form. Oliver Ellsworth, who with Schuyler and Frederick A. Muhlenburg com-

prised the committee appointed to prepare the letter, wrote the first draft which was read in Congress on April 4, but it was then assigned to a new committee consisting of Thomas Burke, Robert R. Livingston, and John Mathews. This committee submitted variant drafts on April 7, 10 and 20, when the letter was referred to still a third committee composed of Abraham Clark, William Ellery, and Ellsworth. On April 21 their draft was debated and then submitted to William Churchill Houston "to redraught the same with amendments." His version was finally adopted on April 24. It was printed under that date by Gaillard Hunt in the Library of Congress' edition of the journals. See *JCC*, 16:312-13, 328, 337, 345-48, 379, 384-87.

Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters

[April 6-13, 1780]¹

In Congress April 6. 1780.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to proceed to Head Quarters to confer with the commander in chief on the subject of his letter of the third instant, together with the report of the board of war and the letter from Baron Steuben on the subject of a reduction of the regiments, and the report of the commissioners on the arrangement of the staff departments of the army, and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare instructions for such committee.²

April 12. 1780. Copy of instructions to the committee appointed to go to camp.³

Gentlemen

You are to confer with the commander in chief on the subjects contained in the resolution for your appointment, and such others as are committed to your charge by the following instructions.

1. You are to consult him about the propriety of reducing the number of regiments: you may with his advice reduce, incorporate or unite to state lines the several additional corps.

2. You together with the commander in chief are to limit the number of horses to be kept by the officers of the line and regimental staff, and to make such regulations with respect to the soldiers employed as servants as will, as far as is consistent with the convenience of the officers they serve, enable the United States to avail themselves of their services as soldiers.

3. Together with the commander in chief you are to suggest such measures, and to form such plans for the general advantage of the officers and soldiers with respect to cloathing and necessary supplies as will tend to remove all just ground of complaint, which Congress sincerely lament that there should be any room for, and to adapt them to the abilities & circumstances of these United States, and immediately to lay them before Congress.

4. You are to consult with the commander in chief and the commissary and quarter master general about the defects of the present system, the abuses to which it is liable, and the best methods of reforming the same. In doing this you will pay a particular attention to the report referred to you in your appointment and adopt, amend or alter the same in such manner as shall upon full consideration appear to you most adviseable, and you are hereby fully empowered to carry into execution any plan for conducting the quarter master and commissary departments which upon advice with the commander in chief and the heads thereof you shall approve; always reflecting that supplies are to be drawn forth by the respective states agreeably to the resolutions of the 25th of Feby. last.

5. You are to inquire minutely into the management of the hospitals and medical departments, & after consulting the commander in chief & director general, you are empowered to discharge unnecessary officers, to retrench expences, to abolish purveyorships, unless when they shall appear absolutely necessary. To contrive modes for checking their accounts, and to limit the number of horses which the officers of that department shall be permitted to keep, providing that they be as few as possible, bearing in mind that the resources of the country are much drained; and that it is more expedient that individuals should feel temporary inconveniencies, than to involve our affairs in general ruin.

6. You are to inquire into the management of the hide department and to reform or abolish the same, substituting contracts in the lieu thereof, if upon advising with the commander in chief it shall appear most salutary.

7. You are to pay particular attention to the department of ordnance and military stores, and after consulting with the commander in chief and the heads of the departments, to lay down such rules for the management thereof as to you shall seem necessary.

8. After the establishment of general regulations you shall visit the different posts as far as you shall judge necessary, in order to see the same carried into execution. In doing of which you are vested with joint and seperate powers; you are at liberty to call to your assistance any officer in the service of the United States, whose expences shall be borne by the states.

You are to abolish unnecessary posts, to erect others, to discharge useless officers, to stop rations, improperly issued, and are hereby further authorized to exercise every power which may be requisite to effect a reformation of abuses and the general arrangement of those departments, which are in any wise connected with the matters committed to your charge.

You are from time to time to inform Congress of the measures you have taken in consequence of these powers and instructions, & to transmit them lists of the names and occupations of the persons

you shall discharge and of those new officers, if any, which you shall find necessary to appoint.

April 13. 1780

Congress proceeded to the election of the committee to proceed to Head Quarters, and the ballots being taken, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Matthews & Mr. Peabody were elected.⁴

Extract from the minutes
Geo Bond Depy Secy.

MS (DNA: RG93, M859). In a clerical hand.

¹ This is a composite document, copied from the journals of Congress for April 6, 12, and 13, for the use of the committee appointed on the 13th—John Mathews, Nathaniel Peabody, and Philip Schuyler. This committee, referred to at times as “The Committee of Cooperation” or “The Committee at Camp,” was most often called the Committee at Headquarters, the designation used in these *Letters*. For the origins of this committee, see John Mathews to Horatio Gates, March 14, 1780. For the role of the committee in Congress’ management of the war, see E. Wayne Carp, *To Starve the Army at Pleasure: Continental Army Administration and American Political Culture, 1775-1783* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984), pp. 191-95; and Edmund C. Burnett, *The Continental Congress* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1941), pp. 446-65.

² The members of the committee chosen on April 6 to “prepare instructions” were Oliver Ellsworth, Robert R. Livingston, and John Mathews. *JCC*, 16:332-33.

³ These “instructions” adopted on April 12 had been considered by Congress since the 8th with principal attention focused on the first article describing the powers granted the Committee at Headquarters, in consultation with the commander-in-chief, to reduce the number of regiments in the Continental army. In an initial draft, prepared by Livingston, the committee was “invested with every power necessary to carry [the plan] into execution.” Livingston Papers, NH. In Livingston’s second draft “every power necessary” was changed to “full powers.” PCC, item 21, fols. 225-26. Although secretary Thomson clearly endorsed the latter document “Delivered April 8, 1780” with “Monday next assigned for the consideration of it,” he did not record its presentation in the journals. Congress began full debate on the instructions on Tuesday, April 11, when it eliminated altogether the section granting powers, merely directing the committee at headquarters to “consult” with Washington on “the propriety of reducing the number of regiments.” The remaining sections of the instructions, as adopted the following day, do not differ significantly from either of the Livingston drafts. For the debate in Congress, see *JCC*, 16:350-52, 354-57.

⁴ For the election of the committee, prior to which Thomas Burke secured passage of a resolve that “no person shall be considered as duly elected to serve on any committee empowered to take order or carry any measure into execution unless he shall have the votes of a majority of the states present in Congress,” see *JCC*, 16:359-62.

Samuel Huntington to George Clinton

Sir,

Philada April 6. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 4th Instant by which your Excellency will be informed that Congress approved of the raising a Body of eight hundred Militia in the State of New York for the Defence of that State and that when raised they

be entitled to Continental Pay and Rations and be employed under the Direction of the Commander in Chief for that Purpose.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA:PCC, item 14).

¹ See *JCC*, 16:327-28; and New York Delegates to Clinton, April 4, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Sir,

Philadelphia April 6. 1780

You will receive here with enclosed an Act of Congress of the 27th Ultio in Consequence of your Letter to the Board of Treasury of the 27th of February¹

Resolving that they will support you in such Suits as may be brought against you which you shall deem unjust and unreasonable, on Account of the public Services therein referred to.

I am Sir with Esteem & regard, your hble Servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (CtHi: Wadsworth Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For this resolve and an extract from Commissary Wadsworth's letter seeking relief from persons threatening suits against him for his refusal to pay various unfulfilled contracts, see *JCC*, 16:290-91; and PCC, item 136, 4:152-53.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir

Philadelphia April 6. 1780

Your Excellency's favors of the 2d & 3d instant & 31st Ultio. have been duly received and laid before Congress.¹

Herewith you will receive a Copy of an Act of the Senate and Assembly of New York of the 2d of March, together with an Act of Congress of the 4th Instant; by which you will be informed that Congress in Compliance with the Desire of that Legislature have approved of their raising a Body of Eight hundred Militia for the Defence of that State to be entitled to Continental Pay and Rations and employed under the Direction of the Commander in Chief of the Continental Army for that Purpose.

By the Act of Congress of the 5th Instant herewith enclosed you will observe that they approve of the Measures taken by your Excellency to reinforce the southern Army.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's hble servan,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 16:329, 332-33; *PCC*, item 152, 8:483-96; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:188-89, 197-200, 207-11.

² *JCC*, 16:329-30.

James Lovell to Horatio Gates

Dear General

Philada April 6th. 1780

Col. Bull being punctual in his obliging Information of an Opportunity to convey a few Lines to you I will not omit to assure you of my Regards though I have nothing in the Line of Politics to communicate which can give you any degree of Satisfaction. I can only say that I do *not despair*. We are obliged to wait for money from the States, and you know that even when we printed it at double Tides, the several Army Departments were often standing still for want of it. Now therefore we can carry on nothing with Vigor.

Our Allies look to us for an active Campaign lest Negotiation should take us at a Disadvantage with an *UTI POSSIDETIS*; But I fear it will be a Campaign of *PALLIATIVES*, *EXPEDIENTS* and *BOTCHES*.

Col. Hazen is here and has his Heart set upon Efforts to the northward as the most æconomical as well as reputable Council we can take in the midst of our Difficulties. He is sanguine as to the favorable Disposition of the Canadians, and also as to his own Abilities to manage the Transportation of Provisions for 5000 three months. But I find an extreme Caution here as to the main Point of an Incursion or even Conquest on account of the Dubiousness of an after Protection, will that be in the Compass of our Strength?

By accounts from Mr. J Adams we are assured of the good dispositions of the Court of Spain but we know not whether Mr. Jay's Powers & Instructions will give entire Satisfaction there when he arrives tho it is on the Side of Probability that they will. We are drawing Bills of Exchange upon him from such a Presumption. But the Speculators here have got the better of us in this matter as well as in our Currency. For as it was not proper for us to heighten Exchange while we recommended moderate Profits to the Importer, our Draughts have been bought to be sold again under our Eyes.

God be praised the Enemy are not in Force & Vigor at New York so that our Remnant of an army is not put to the Impossibility of either running from an immediate attack or of following the Foe *pari passu* to some other Station.

Something has been wrong for the Spaniards off Gibraltar but I do not think the Seige is essentially affected. We are entitled to authentic Dispatches from France about this day.

I send you the February Journal without its Disgraces of Yea & Nay in long Borders.

A Letter of yours has lately been read in Congress on yr. Request.¹

Pray, had you been counted a Home Stealer or a Jockey, or what, that you chose to have that formal Communication?

Congress will not say that the Penobscot Expedition was rightfully or wrongfully undertaken or that the reasonable Expences of it shall or shall not be paid by the Continent. Nor will they attempt to direct an Expedition against the Post now held by the Enemy in that Quarter. You will perceive that I am in a Temper of much Chagrin. I do not find Men of such Minds round me as I have been accustomed to transact Business with in the first Parts of my Delegation. In short the War is grown too familiar a Thing with us. We not only are not at all allarmed, but we even do not watch, or prepare against the probable Councils of our Foe. We make somewhat of a Stir about saving when we have become pennyless: and I must own there is a large Field to exercise our Talents in as Æconomists.

I believe you are fully convinced by this Time of what I at first said of not giving you any Satisfaction. You must however take my Tale in good Part and continue to believe me your affectionate Friend & very humble Servant.

James Lovell

RC (NHi: Gates Papers). Endorsed erroneously: "Lre. from Mr. James Lovell, dated Philada. 16 April 1780."

¹ There is no mention in the journals of the reading of an official letter from Gates between February 26 and June 26, 1780, but for the use made on March 13 of a private letter from Gates to John Mathews, the incident to which Lovell is apparently referring here, see Mathews to Gates, March 14, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington

Sir

Philadelphia April 7. 1780

I have the honor to Intreat Your Excellency to lay before Congress the Inclosed bill drawn by Major General Sullivan on me, the receipt of the Indian in whose favor It passed is Indorsed; In the present State of Affairs I should have deferred the application for a reimbursement to a future day and have added this to other Charges which I have against the public for Specie Advances Since the adjustment of my Accounts in 1777, had I not found It beyond my power to repay the person from whom I borrowed the money under a promise to replace It at an Early day.¹

I have the honor to be, with very sincere Esteem & respect, Your Excellencys Most Obedient Servant,

Phi. Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 153).

¹ Schuyler's letter was read in Congress this day and referred to the Board of Treasury. On April 13 Congress ordered the issuance of a warrant for \$100 in specie to settle this claim. See JCC, 16:334, 358.

Samuel Holten to Aaron Wood

Dear Sir.¹

Philadelphia April 8th 1780.

May I be permitted to address you as an absent friend with no other apology than assuring you that personal respect is my principal motive.

Your constant exertions in the great cause of our Country can't but make you highly respected by all her true friends, that, has the pleasure of your acquaintance; and I am greatly mistaken if you are not sensibly effected with the distresses of our country, but it is difficult for a person to form to himself an idea of the State of affairs here; The deranged state of our Finances & want of money has greatly embarrassed every department, I have said embarrassed, I shou'd have said almost put a total stop to every thing that respects the army; Daily demands upon Congress from every quarter & little or no money in the Treasury; It wou'd give me some Satisfaction if I knew the Hone. assembly was fully sensible of our Situation & their own danger; I am loth to add further upon so disagreeable a subject, and tho' I thought myself prepared for the greatest difficulties in this respect, yet I can truly say I have met with nothing like it since the war, and how far it is in the power of the states to relieve Congress & themselves I am not able to judge, but this I am sure of, that, it is best to exert ourselves in the ways pointed out by Congress, for by this means we have the *whole* strength of the union together. However (my worthy friend) don't think I despair of the great cause, no, not if the enemy should be disbanded which many suppose will *soon* be the case.

It would give me pleasure to converse with you upon our national affairs in Europe, but I think there wou'd be some impropriety in committing such important matters to writing if I was under no restraint, yet you may be assured that things are going on there as well as can be expected, all circumstances considered; But I have no doubt the ministr. of France and other Gentn. here of distinction from foreign nations, see with concern the distressed state to which Congress are reduced; soldiers, money, & supplies are the three principal things wanted here, but the two latter gives me the most concern, for without them it will be impossible to keep the army we have in the field; but what difficulties are unsurmountable when a virtuous & enlightened people are striving for all that is dear & all that is worth living in this world to enjoy & not ownly for them selves but for posterity.

I am, my dear Sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

FC (MHi: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Aaron Wood (1719-91), a Boxford, Mass., revolutionary leader who had served

with Holten in the Massachusetts General Court. Sidney Perley, *The History of Boxford, Essex County, Massachusetts* (Boxford: Privately printed, 1880), pp. 349-50.

Robert R. Livingston to Ezra L'Hommedieu

Dear Sir

8th Apl. 1780 Philadelphia

The enclosed Letters came to hand after you left.¹ We have no news here but a confirmation of the Spaniards having lost four ships in the Mediteranian after a very severe conflict pretty much as related before—And the troops to the amt. of about 2000 having sailed from New York with Sir Henry's heavy baggage. In order to put you upon your guard I must inform you that your black fellow is charged with many offences by the servants here. At my return I found my trunk broke upon—the servants say that Joe had a considerable quantity of money, & enumerate six new sixty dollar bills which is a very suspicious circumstance as all my money in the trunk was of that denomination. They add that he purchased a second hand suit of cloathes, 3 pr. of buckles at 80 Dollars a pr, a silk handkerchief @90—That he had a silver watch which he said he gave 200 Dollars for tho I have no doubt from the description that the watch was the one my Brother lost, as they say it was without a chain tho he has since put one to it for which he gave 40 Dollars & that it had a watch paper handsomly cut. You will without alarming him use the necessary means to discover wether these charges are well founded & inquire whether [*he*] has such things as they say he purchased. Schuylers letter & one from Lewis to his son have found the way into Rivingtons paper.² I am Dr. Sir with great esteem, Your Most Obd Hum. Servt,

Robt R Livingston

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980).

¹ Ezra L'Hommedieu had obtained a leave of absence from Congress on April 1 (JCC, 16:322), but he did not leave Philadelphia before April 4 when he signed a letter from the New York delegates to George Clinton.

² For the publication of these captured letters in James Rivington's *New York Royal Gazette*, April 1, 1780, see Philip Schuyler to Jacob Cuyler?, March 11, 1780, note.

Philip Schuyler to Alexander Hamilton

Dear Sir

Philadelphia April 8th 1780

Yesterday I had the pleasure to receive a line from Mrs Schuyler In answer to mine on the subject of the one you delivered me at Morris town; she consents to Comply with your and her daughters wishes.¹ You will see the Impropriety of taking the dernier pas where you are. Mrs. Schuyler did not see her Eldest daughter married. That also gave me pain, and we wish not to Experience It a Second

time. I shall probably be at Camp In a few days, when we will adjust all matters.

You have been mentioned in private Conversation to go as Secretary to the Embassy at the Court of Versailles;² there is but one obstacle which prevents me from making up my mind on the Subject; that you will know when I have the pleasure of seeing you. In the mean time revolve the Matter In yours.

The pride, the folly, and perhaps too the Wickedness of some on a Certain floor Combine to frustrate every Intention to promote the public Weal and releave my amiable Chief³ from his well grounded anxiety; The few that feel for him, and are alarmed at the critical State of our public affairs in Every deparment within as well as without have not been able to Carry a measure which they believed could have had Salutary Consequences. They have now proposed that a Committee should repair to head Quarters, Invested Conjointly with the General, with a kind of dictatorial power in order to afford Satisfaction to the Army and to arrange the great departments thereof.⁴ Livingston, Elsworth and Mathews are appointed to prepare Instructions. Some good may result if Gentlemen who love the General are not Jealous of the army, and of a Generous turn are sent, but should General Sherman be at the head of the Triumvires the General will be tormented with the thousand littlenesses which Roger has thrown together and which he Entitles a System. I shall not be sent on this business "because It would not be proper to send a person who as he has been In the Army will probably have a Bias in Its favor." This reasoning is Conclusive.

Be so good as to desire Mrs. Cochran to Mark which and how many Yards of Silks marked on the Inclosed she wishes to have and advise me by the first Conveyance.

Beware of Communications to this quarter which you would not wish the world to know. This hint will prevent you from writing but by a safe hand.

It is amusing to observe the Effect Sir Harry Clintons private No. 15 has.⁵ The Southernites have their Spirits much raised by It. The Northerns look big and the Enemy's distress is owing to their Virtue and Exertions. They wish for the 12000 russians to have the pleasure of devouring them. The war is to be at an End next winter, and as they wish to Conclude handsomely they will Insist that their Constituents compleat their Quotas without delay, and furnish aids of money &c. En verité there are only two or three of the Club who believe the letter Spurious, but two who are decidedly of that opinion. Adieu my Love to Betsy, make the same to Mrs. Cochran, my best wishes to all at head Quarters, I am Dr Sir sincerely Yours &c &c,

Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] Yesterday a matter was agitated which aforded me an Opportunity of Insisting on the Justice & propriety of making good to the

army the deficiency of pay Occasioned by the depreciation of the Continental Currency. I was heard so favorably on the Subject that I shall this day venture a Motion for a Resolution to that Effect, and Believe Success will Crown my Endeavour. If so, It will, I hope, relieve the General from much Inquietude on this Account.

RC (DLC: Hamilton Papers). Hamilton, *Papers* (Syrett), 2:305-7.

¹ A reference to the wishes of Hamilton and Schuyler's daughter Elizabeth to be married, which were realized on December 14, 1780. See Hamilton, *Papers* (Syrett), 2:307, 521.

² Hamilton had been nominated for this post by James Lovell as early as December 1779. See Nathaniel Peabody to Henry Laurens, December 17; and James Lovell to Richard Henry Lee, December 18, 1779.

³ That is, General Washington.

⁴ See Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6-13, 1780.

⁵ Schuyler is referring to a forged letter of Sir Henry Clinton to Lord George Germain, in which Clinton is seen as having complained of the "deranged" state of military affairs, lamented the prospects of his southern campaign, expressed fears of having adequate strength to hold New York and Charleston, and warned of the "futility" of expecting the American monetary crisis to cause the collapse of the Continental government. The letter was first published on April 8 in the *Pennsylvania Packet* and was widely reprinted in America and Europe. See, for example, Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:702, 770-71, 841, 871.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia April 9, 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 8th Instant with Papers therein referred to No 1 & 2, containing an Application from the State of Massachusetts Bay for an Expedition to dislodge the Enemy at Penobscot.¹

This Application is referred to the Consideration of your Excellency,² and in the mean Time Continental Pay and Rations are to be allowed to any Body of Militia not exceeding eight Hundred which the State of Massachusetts Bay may judge necessary to be raised for the Defence of the eastern Parts of that State.

I am this Moment favored with your Excellency's Dispatches of the 7th Instant per Express.³ I have the honor to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellys obt. hbble Servt,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 16:342. Huntington's enclosures consisted of (1) February 9 instructions from Massachusetts to her delegates in Congress requesting an expedition against the British at Penobscot; (2) Col. Alexander Campbell's description of the Penobscot country with an appraisal of the "strength & situation of the British Fort at Majorbagwade," and (3) Congress' April 8 resolve referring Massachusetts' request to Washington.

² Washington's April 17 reply explaining the improbability that the enemy at Pen-

obscot could be dislodged, "circumstanced as we are," is in PCC, item 152, 8:515-18; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:269-72.

³ See PCC, item 152, 8:499-501; and *ibid.*, pp. 226-27.

James Lovell to Samuel Adams

Apr. 9th [1780]

1780 March 22. The Delegates of the State of Massachusetts Bay, in Pursuance of their Instructions contained in the Letter of Mr. President Powell of February 9th, moved the following Propositions, vizt.¹

"That upon the Adjustment of the Account of the State of Massachusetts Bay they be allowed the reasonable Expences incurred by them in endeavouring, by a land and naval Armament to dislodge the Enemy who had actually invaded the said State & fortified themselves at Penobscot."

"That a Warrant issue on the Treasurer of the State of Massachusetts Bay in Favour of said State for Dollars, being Part of their Quota of continental Taxes, for which Sum the said State is to be accountable."

"That an Expedition be forthwith adopted for dislodging the Enemy from Penobscot."

Congress determined to commit the Propositions with a Copy of the Instructions, almost in whole, as they were presented by the Delegates; and it appeared to be much the Sense of the House that this Business should produce general Resolutions. But the Delegates of that State found themselves obliged to combat the Report of the Comtee. as quite throwing out of Sight the Point aimed at in the Propositions moved.

1780 April 5th. The Committee to whom was referred a motion of the Delegates of Mass. Bay with sundry Papers from that State reported the following Resolutions. vizt.

That the Reasonable Expence incurred by any of the States during the present War for Pay & subsistence of militia necessarily employed by them for defence against the common Enemy be credited to such States upon a final Adjustment of their Accounts with the United States.²

That upon the Application of the State of Mass. Bay by their Delegates in Congress representing that the said State had incurred a very heavy Expence for repelling a late Invasion of *Penobscot* in the said State by the common Enemy; and requesting that Part of the Monies raised by the said State for the United States might be retained until the accounts of the Expence aforesaid be prepared and submitted to the Consideration of Congress; a Warrant issue on the Treasurer of the State of Massachusetts Bay in favour of the said

State for one *two*³ million Dollars being Part of the monies raised by the said State for the Use of the United States, for which Sum the said State is to be accountable.¹

That the application from the State of Mass. Bay for an Expedition to be adopted for dislodging the Enemy from Penobscot with the Papers relative thereto be referred to the Consideration of the Commander in Chief of the Army of these United States.⁴

An Amendment was obtained of *two* for one million. And an Addition was gained to the last Resolve as follows "and that continental Pay & rations be allowed to any Body of militia no[t] exceeding 800 men which the State of Massachusetts Bay may judge necessary to be raised by them for the Defence of the Eastern Part of that State."⁵

Mr. Partridge will tell you all the Turnings & Twistings & Botchings that were attempted to be made in the first Resolution; which, being connected with the Preamble would have wrought as an inferred Exclusion of the Wishes of Mass. with Regard to the particular Expedition with its nav[al] Expenses.

Yr. affecte

J L

RC (NN: Adams Papers).

¹ In this letter Lovell quotes and summarizes proceedings in Congress concerning Massachusetts' efforts to obtain reimbursement for its expenditures on the ill-fated expedition against Penobscot and to secure Continental support for another attack on the post. For additional information on this partially successfull effort, see the letters to the Massachusetts Council from Samuel Holten, April 4; Samuel Huntington, April 14; and the Massachusetts Delegates, April 17, 1780.

² Lovell wrote in the margin beside this paragraph: "lost by a division."

³ Lovell wrote "*two*" above "one" in the RC, but let both stand.

⁴ Lovell wrote in the margin beside this paragraph: "passed."

⁵ Although this clause was part of the original resolves submitted by the Massachusetts delegates, it was not part of the resolutions reported by the committee, which are in the hand of Oliver Ellsworth. It was however added to the resolutions before the final vote on April 8. See JCC, 16:276-77, 339-42; and PCC, item 20, 1:57-58.

William Floyd to James Duane

Dear Sir

Fishkill April 10th. 1780

Mr. LHomedieu and my Self are now on our Return from Congress, leaving Mr. Livingston, Mr. Schuyler & Mr. Scott there, they Requested me to write from here and Request you to Repair to Philadelphia as Soon as you can, as they or Some one of them wishes to Return home.¹ I am in So Great a hurry that I cannot give you any particulars of what has been Doing lately at Congress—But Subscribe my Self your most Obedt and humble Servt.

Wm. Floyd

RC (NHi: Duane Papers).

¹ Duane had already informed Gov. George Clinton in an April 6 letter that the preparation of "the Dutch papers for the Hearing . . . retards my Journey to Congress." Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:591-92.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 10, 1780]

10. Monday. I dined with the minister. Congress agreed to make good to the officers & soldiers their pay on acct. of the depreciation of the money.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ See Holten to George Partridge, April 11, 1780, note 2.

William Churchill Houston to Joseph Ward

Dear Sir,

Philada. 10 April 1780

I had the Honour to write you a few Days since on the Subject of accepting a Seat at the Treasury Board as one of the Commissioners thereof;¹ and to request you would by the earliest Conveyance inform me of your Resolution respecting that Proposal. Your Name now stands in Nomination and immediately on hearing from you the Election will be finished, which if in your Favour shall be transmitted without Loss of Time. Congress would not chuse to be disappointed by appointing a Person not expected to serve; this is the reason of my urging to hear from you. I described in my former the present Emoluments of the Office, which, as soon as the Currency acquires any Stability of Value will be among the handsomest given by Congress in my opinion.

I am, with due Respect, your obedt hble Servant,

William Ch Houston

RC (ICHi: Ward Papers).

¹ See Houston to Ward, March 31, 1780.

Board of Treasury to Jean Holker

[April 11, 1780]

It has been the object of this board ever Since your application by letter of the 8th Octber. last *repeating what you had before urged*, to have the Accts. between your Agency & the Un. States for Supplies furnished the royal Marine by the public Commissaries of provisions

adjusted & Closed, to Comply Strictly & speedily with your wishes, but unhappily their tardiness in collecting & forwarding the vouchers has prevented as yet the Completion of the Settlement, we however expect it Shortly to be furnished & in the mean time being in immediate want of about 200,000 dollars for a particular pressing purpose in this place, wish to Know whether it would Comport with your Convenience to pay that Sum into the hands of the treasurer Mr. Hillegas to be Carried to your Credit in Stating the balance.¹

Tr (DLC: Holker Papers). In a clerical hand. This extract, taken from a document prepared by Holker to support the settlement of his claims sometime after 1781 when Robert Morris was Superintendent of Finance, is identified only by the phrase: "On the 11th April 1780 Wm. Houston writes to J. Holker as follows."

¹ The Board of Treasury had reported on April 5 that their failure to settle Holker's account with the United States, "which . . . amounts at the lowest computation to half a million of dollars," was attributable to "the neglect and delay of the Commissaries of Purchases to furnish the vouchers of account . . . for provisions furnished to the use of the [French] Marine." *JCC*, 16:337-38. Although the final settlement of Holker's account dragged on for years, Holker did immediately agree to remit the \$200,000 requested here, "Though it is not perfectly regular that any monies should be paid . . . without the acct. being previously adjusted." His April 13 reply to the Board signifying this agreement appears immediately following this extract from Houston's letter in the Holker Papers, vol. 40, DLC.

Samuel Holten to William Gordon

Rev'd. & dear Sir,

Philadelphia Apl. 11th. 1780.

I had the pleasure of addressing you the 28th ulto.¹ & shou'd not have wrote again by this post, had it not been for a paragraph in a letter from you to the Honl Mr Gerry which he was so kind as to shew me, By which I perceive you are under a mistake, which I think I ought to endeavour to convince you of. In my letter of Decr. the 7th² to which you are pleased to refer (in yours to Mr. Gerry) I mentioned that one reason for my not writing before, was, "the length of time between your letters & an expression in your last" which lead me to believe that it would be most agreeable to you, to drop our correspondence, therefore I think it can't be supposed that what you were pleased to mention to Mr Gerry was the true reason, as that affair was contained in one of your former letters; But I will now explain my self more fully & mention the *very* sentence which I had then reference to. You begin your address in these words, "it lies in my mind that I am indebted to you a letter" the way of expression which seemed as if you had almost forgot whether it was so, or not, added to the length of time since remained unnoticed lead me to form my judgment as expressed in my letter above referred to; and I further assure you sir, upon my honor, that, what you was pleased to hold up to Mr. Gerry as your Supposed reason for my

conduct had no influence upon my mind at that time, for I well remember that I understood your former letter (at the time when I read it) in the same light in which you are now pleased to explain it. I have ownly to add that I should have taken it kind if you had wrote me a few lines upon the subject, which wou'd have made it unnecessary that a third person shou'd have known any thing *particular* respecting our correspondence, & might have presented & any person from apprehending that I had taken exception at something that was not exceptionable.

By intelligence from Genl. Washington, yesterday, we understand that about 2000 of the enemy lately sailed from New York, supposed for Charlestown So. Carolina.

I inclose you this mornings paper which contains the news of the day.

Please to present my respectful compliments to your Lady, & believe me to remain with Sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ See Holten to Gordon, March 28, 1780.

² See Holten to Gordon, December 7, 1779.

Samuel Holten to George Partridge

My dear Sir, Philadelphia Apl. 11th 1780

Jere returned last evening & bro't your agreeable favor¹ dated at Trenton the evening before; I was sorry after you left me that I had not directed him to wait on you, untill you overtook Mr Livermore, or to head quarters, but you may recollect the old saying that repentance always comes too late, therefore I have ownly to ask that you'l accept the will for the deed.

Agreeable to the order of the day Congress took into consideration the instructions proposed to be given to the come. to be appointed to repair to head quarters & soon after a motion was made for postponing, in order to bring before the house a resolution for making good to the officers & soldiers their pay, &c on acct. of the depreciation, which passed nem. con. after spending near the whole day in amending it to our minds.²

I am daily more convinced that it wou'd be most proper that the Hond. assembly shou'd determine how their Delegates in Congress shou'd be supplied with money to bear their expences. I wish to know their minds upon this matter, at least, so far as respects me personally, that I might govern myself accordingly; And will you (my worthy friend) be so kind as to mention it to the Hond. House. I am, Sir, with sincere respect, your most obedient,

FC (PPIn). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Not found.

² Holten was referring to Congress' April 10 resolution to "make good to the line of the army, and the independent corps thereof, the deficiency of their original pay, occasioned by such depreciation [of the continental bills of credit]." See *JCC*, 16:344; and Holten's Diary, April 10, 1780.

Robert R. Livingston to John R. Livingston

Dear Brother

Philadelphia April 11th. 1780

You have I hope before this recd a Letter I wrote you in answer to yours containing your project for going to Holland.¹ I am uneasy about your Last plans from an apprehension that your affairs are not in such a situation as you would wish. I can not help thinking that with your expectations it would be more proper to continue in your own country & endeavour by your industry & œconomy to accomodate your circumstances to your fortune, contending your self with a gradual encrease of it than quit your country & connections & leave your estate embarrassed if you should not succeed. Perhaps this thought is suggested rather by the pain I should feel in parting with you than from any other cause. I pretend not to direct, I can only pray heaven to crown your endeavours with success. In my Last I gave you reasons for my not being able to embark with you in trade. I would have you think if you do go abroad whether the Havanah or Coruna in Spain wd. not afford you good opportunities of succeeding in either of which I believe I could get you invested with a publick character. A few days will determine whether I do not go abroad myself since many of my friends are particularly earnest with me upon this subject² tho' I am far from wishing it myself in that case perhaps your destination may be altered. This is said in the utmost confidence & is not to be communicated. The news of this place you will find in the enclosed papers. A fleet left New York the 5th with 2000 troops on board it is said another embarkation is preparing—so that they mean to risk every thing for the conquest of Charles town. I can not hear that they are like to recive any reinforcements from Europe. I shall direct for Tillotson at the Manor as I suppose he is no longer with you. Present my love to your Peggy & believe me dear Brother, Most Affectionately yours,

Rob R Livingston

RC (MiDbEI).

¹ Not found. John R. Livingston had proposed to go to Holland to enter the "St. Eustatius trade," and he had solicited venture capital from William Duer and Robert Morris. George Dangerfield, *Chancellor Robert R. Livingston of New York, 1746-1813* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1960), pp. 112-13.

² For the possibility that Livingston might be sent to France, which had been in the

air since February when it was proposed by John Mathews that Congress appoint "a resident, instead of a secretary to the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Versailles," see Livingston to John Jay, February 10, 1780, note 3. The issue became moot on April 17, however, when Mathews' motion was rejected by a vote of six to two, with only New York and South Carolina supporting the proposal. *JCC*, 16:371-72.

James Lovell to Samuel Adams

Sir, April 11th. 1780

I have this morning recd your Favor of March 25/30¹ but it is not possible for me to give you a Tenth of the Portion in Return. I will attend to all the Points; but, on Mr. Partridge's Return and Conversation you will know I have *rigid* Attendance to perform *in* Congress, and to the full as much Duty of the Quill *out* as ever. Wherefore you are not to expect many Letters from me.

I am now standing at a Window to scratch this while Esqr. Burke is speaking. We are about sending a Comtee. to Camp the Instructions for them are under Debate. A Reduction will be one of the Points on which they will have discretionary Power, late in the Season as it is; and altho' we lately put off a Report of the Bd. of War on that Subject till Decr. Ist —80.² A Preparitory Dulcedo was yesterday passed relating to the Staff of the Army,³ but it was not possible to go into a Detail of Regulations respecting them so as not to throw Money away upon D D D D D's. But you may depend upon it that every Thing proper will be done for the deserving Classes of the *Staff* upon the Principles which have governed us as to the *Line* vizt.

Resolved, That when Congress shall be furnished with proper Documents to liquidate the Depreciation of the continental Bills of Credit, they will, as soon thereafter as the State of the public Finances will admit, make good to the Line of the Army & the independent Corps thereof, the Deficiency of their original Pay occasioned by such a Depreciation; and that the money and Articles heretofore paid or furnished or hereafter to be paid or furnished by Congress or the States or any of them as for Pay, Subsistence or to compensate for Deficiencies shall be deemed as advanced on Account until such Liquidation as aforesaid shall be adjusted, it being the Determination of Congress that all the Troops serving in the continental Army shall be placed on an equal footing Provided that no Persons shall have any Benefit of this Resolution except such as were engaged during the War, or for three years and are now in Service or shall hereafter engage during the War.

Resolved That a Committee of three be appointed to report a proper Compensation to the Staff of the Army in Consequence of the Depreciation of the Currency. Holten, Peabody & Burke.

This will prove agreeable to our State on the Principles already adopted by the Court as signified to Congress.

Please to acknowledge to Genl. Warren my Rect. of his Letter of March 17th this Moment; Assure him of my affectionate Respect and that I will forward his letter to R H Lee.

I am dear Sir, yrs.

J L

RC (NN: Adams Papers).

¹ Adams' March 25, 1780, letter to Lovell is in Adams, *Writings* (Cushing), 4:183-87. Adams' March 26, 27, and 30 postscripts to the letter were mistakenly printed by Cushing under a 1779 date and therefore appear at *ibid.*, pp. 142-45.

² Congress had taken this action on March 25. The reduction of the Continental Army to sixty regiments had been proposed originally by Robert R. Livingston on January 8. See *JCC*, 16:28, 36-38, 178-80, 272, 287; and Committee of Congress to Washington, January 11, 1780.

³ That is, Congress had appointed a committee "to report a proper compensation to the staff of the army in consequence of the depreciation of the currency," so that staff officers would become eligible for the same depreciation allowances provided line troops in the April 10 resolution quoted by Lovell below. *JCC*, 16:344-45.

George Plater to the Maryland Council

Gentlemen

Philadelphia Apl. 12th 1780

Since my last¹ we have Intelligence of an Embarkation of two thousand Men at New York destined to Charles Town & some more Transports are at the watering Place which indicate another Movement. Genl. Lincoln writes on the 14th March² that the Enemy had been lying before the Bar of Charles Town with a Number of Ships of War viz. one line of Battle, one fifty, two forty four, two Frigates, two twenty, one Sloop & a Galley, with some Transports which had been lightening the heavy Ships—their Intention to come in the first favorable Opportunity. Our Ships were anchored so as to act in Conjunction with Fort Moultrie. The Enemy had thrown up a Battery opposite the west Part of the Town, on the north Side of Wappoo Creek, from which they fired on our armed Vessels. The Balls reached the Town, but it is at too great a Distance to annoy our Works. It will prevent our Ships lying in Ashley River, which wou'd intercept their Passage, if they meant it by Boats. I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect, Gentlemen, Yr most obt. & very hble servt.

Geo. Plater

RC (PHi: Etting Collection).

¹ Not found; although Plater had written the following brief letter, concerning an unidentified enclosure to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee on April 4. "The inclosed Letter came to my Hand yesterday, & as I find it superscribed on public Service, have thought it proper to forward it to your Excellency." Red Books, MdAA.

² Lincoln's March 14 letter had been read in Congress on April 11. *JCC*, 16:349.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 13, 1779]

13. Thursday. I recd a letter from Josiah Batchelder Esqr.¹ Congress appointed a come. to repair to head quarters.² No new intelligence.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ For Holten's response, see Holten to Josiah Batchelder, April 21, 1780.

² See Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6-13, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia April 13. 1780

Enclosed your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 7th Instant, granting a Commission of Major to Joseph Louis Gill, an Indian Chief, and for embodying those of his Tribe who are willing to enter the Service of the States.¹

Also directing the Board of War to fill up Commissions for a certain Number of Officers who may be recommended to command under Joseph Gill.

Your Letter of the 10th Instant enclosing the New York Paper is received.²

Bradford's Paper³ herewith enclosed contains the Spanish Account of the Engagement between the two fleets in the Extract of a Letter from Bilbao of the 1st of February which I have received.

I have the honor to be, with great Respect, your Excellency's hble servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ This resolve concerning Chief Gill was adopted in response to a recommendation of Col. Moses Hazen, which had been forwarded to Congress by Washington in November 1779. See *JCC*, 15:1263, 16:334; *PCC*, item 152, 8:159-63; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 17:68-69. For information on this unsuccessful effort to ensure the allegiance of the Abnakis through Gill, who had been raised with the Indians by his European parents during their captivity by the Abnakis of Massachusetts, see John C. Huden, "The White Chief of the St. Francis Abnakis—Some Aspects of Border Warfare, 1690-1790," *Vermont History*, n.s. 24 (July-Oct. 1956): 199-210, 337-55.

² For this letter and the enclosed intelligence concerning the British defeat of a Spanish squadron in the West Indies and an imminent embarkation of enemy transports from New York, see *PCC*, item 152, 8:511; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:241.

³ That is, the April 12 issue of Thomas Bradford's *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser*.

John Morin Scott to James Duane

Philadelphia April 13th. 1780

It is with Reluctance that I request your immediate [presence at]

Congress, when I consider your long Absence [from] family & domestic Concerns, in the Service of your [country]. But I have your Warrant for the Call. You will not think Me too importunate. In a few days I expect to [be] alone—Col Floyd & Mr. L Hommedieu mounted for [home eig]ht or ten days ago.¹ Mr. Livingston by his Lady's Condition [expects to] be called from hence in two or three days; & proposes [. . .], & not to return until sent for. General Schuyler [& Messrs.] Matthews of S. Carolina & Peabody of [New Ha]mpshire are a Committee to reform abuses in the [army &?] are to set off in four or five days for Headquarters. [It is] part of their Business to visit the posts and [. . .] Spot, there is little Reason to expect the General's [return? at] all, till late in the Summer. You see then how [our state?] must necessarily depend for Representation, on Me unless you join Me. I need urge no other Reasons for your coming without delay. Nothing is yet [done on] Vermont. We moved it once or twice soon after my [arrival] but it was made to give Way to the Business of [the . . .] plan of which has doubtless reached You. I beg [you] to lend your Interest for its Support before You [leave the] State. The Vermont Business thus postponed, as I [have?] mentioned, has been attended with a further delay, [. . .] by the Sickness & death of Mr Forbes of Maryland, [. . .] that State having only one Member (Mr Plater) [is] unrepresented. Georgia being without a Representation, We have only 11 States—New Hampshire, Massachusetts & N. York are objected to—So that a Representation [of] Maryland seems absolutely necessary for taking up the Business. We every Moment expect that R[epresen]tation will be perfect. As soon, as it is, tho our a[gent] should be absent, I shall, without waiting for You [seek] the Determination, with respect to the Indepen[dence of] Vermont, which I believe will be favorable. Thi[s . . .] is by the Resolution to be determined by Congress[. . .] cannot after assuming the Business refuse [to . . . the] Controversy between the three states N. Hampshire [. . .] & we stand on friendly Terms with them. [. . .] not submitted; & I believe they mean to elude [. . .] on. This part of the Business You know must go [. . .] Train from the other & will require more Time; [when we?] will have the Benefit of your presence—I hope [you br]ing with You all the Evidence that may have been [gathered] since I left the State. I long to see You. *Let not your heels tarry!*

You have doubtless heard of the Affairs of Gibralter &c., [they] are not very pleasing. I therefore do not Chuse [to enlarge]. We are big with Expectations from the [reports that] Clinton's disaster has obliged him to call for [reinforcements] from New York. I hope the Measures We [. . .] the Support of our Interest in that Southern Quarter may [. . .] Time only can determine it.

[Please? . . .] to lose no Time in setting off. You will be exceedingly [. . .] our State seems to stand well with a Majority. I am [hoping to]

avoid any Offence to either of them. The proposed Cession on our Western Skirts will not probably [. . .] this Summer, for want of a representation [. . .] requires. The Business has been Committed but [. . .] of a disagreement of the Members of the Council [. . .] they have been discharged—Since which, Business [of a] general & pressing Nature has engrossed all our I[n]terest]. You should not set out immediately, let me be [. . .]

I am, Sir, with great Respect, Your most obedient,

Jno. Morin [Scott]

RC (NH: Duane Papers).

¹ William Floyd and Ezra L'Hommedieu obtained leaves of absence on April 1, but both were still in Philadelphia on April 4. See *JCC*, 16:322; and New York Delegates to George Clinton, April 4, 1780.

Oliver Ellsworth to Abigail Ellsworth

Dear Nabby,

Philadel. Apr. 14th 1780

Yesterday, I received Mr. Lyman's letter of the 3d of this month, am glad to hear you & my other Nabby are well, & that you are not like to want for anything in my absence.

I will look again in this town about some callico & linen & inform you in a day or two.

This letter comes by Mr Sherman who setts off this morning for New Haven,¹ & will come directly onto Hartford, & I hope will be so good as to call & see you & comfort you a little. I expect as soon as he gets to the assembly that he will hasten on some body for my relief if there should none be coming on sooner.

I suppose it is a stormy time in Connecticut just now. I hope it will be more calm by the time I get home & that all things will come right again after awhile.

You will remember me to all our friends & believe me to be with the sincerest affection, Your obedt humbl Servt, O E.

[P.S.] Love to little Nabby & have sent three fine plumbs that she may not forget daddy if he does stay so long.

Tr (CtHi: Ellsworth Papers).

¹ Roger Sherman's last vote at this time was on April 13. *JCC*, 16:361.

Sherman was probably the courier for another letter to Connecticut this day as well, from which the following "Extract of a Letter from an Hon. Member of Congress, dated April 14, 1780;" was printed in the April 25 issue of the *Connecticut Courant and Weekly Intelligencer*.

"A Resolution has just passed for making up depreciation to the army. A committee are also appointed to go to Camp, and see what further can be done for the benefit and good understanding of the Army, and to endeavor to introduce some æconomical arrangements in the Staff Department. Æconomy, Justice and Taxation are of high

importance to be attended to at this time. I believe there has been no period, in which so much good, or so much evil might be done in a short time, as at present."

Elbridge Gerry to Joseph Ward

Dear sir,

Philadelphia 14th Aprl. 80

In Answer to your Letter of the 8th Inst. respecting the Office of a Commr. of the Treasury, You will find the Powers & Duties described in the Ordnance contained in the printed Journals of Congress of the 30th July last. It is impossible to have a competent Idea of the Variety of Business transacted in this Department, or of the Mode of conducting it, without a Reference to the Minutes of the Board; but certain I am, that your Experience in the Affairs of the Army, Regard to System, Industry, Integrity, & Abilities are fully equal to the Office, & I hope You will accept the Appointment, whenever it shall be adopted by Congress. I see no prospect of a Vacancy in either of the Navy Boards, & therefore shall be silent on the Subject,¹ being Sir with Esteem your very humble sr,

E. Gerry

RC (ICHi: Ward Papers).

¹ Although Ward had been nominated one of the treasury commissioners, he did not receive the appointment; being elected instead commissary general of prisoners on April 15, a position he declined. See *JCC*, 16:319, 366; and Samuel Huntington to Ward, April 15, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia April 14. 1780

By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 8th Instant you will observe that upon a Representation of the Delegates from Massachusetts Bay of the great Expence incurred by that State in endeavoring to repel a late Invasion of the Enemy at Penobscot, they have ordered a Warrant in favor of the State on their Treasurer for two Millions of Dollars.¹

Congress you will also observe have referred the Consideration of the Propriety of an Expedition against Penobscot to the Commander in Chief, at the same time allowing Continental Pay and Rations to a limited Number of Militia for the Defense of the eastern Part of Massachusetts Bay.²

The Warrant above mentioned for two Millions of Dollars will be forwarded by the Delegates from the State of Massachusetts.

I have the honour to be, with great Respect, Sir, your most obthble servant,
 Sam. Huntington President

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. Addressed: "The Honble The President of the Council of Massachusetts Bay."

¹ *JCC*, 16:339-41. For the presentation of Massachusetts' request for compensation for the expense of the Penobscot expedition, see Massachusetts Delegates to the Council, March 20; and James Lovell to Samuel Adams, April 9, 1780.

² See Huntington to Washington, April 9, 1780.

Thomas Burke to Cornelius Harnett

Dear Sir

Philadelphia April 15th 1780

I have had from you, very lately, a letter which announced to me your safe arrival at your own home.¹ I am very glad that you have surmounted the difficulties of a journey which I have often thought of with very great and severe apprehensions. Your Spirits I perceive are good, and your health, I hope will always continue as well as you can wish it. Mine I find declines apace and I am satisfied that another year's close application in Congress would make me a perpetual Citizen in Philadelphia, and give me a right to the soil from whence nothing short of the Final Judgement of this World could Eject me.

Gen. Jones and myself continued at our old quarters until about ten days ago, and had the pleasure of the company of our old agreeable friends Mrs. & Miss Viney. But even their Society could not render our Situation any longer tolerable, and we changed our Quarters formerly occupied by our friend George Ross, which we have taken ready furnished. We live here as comfortable as we can, but not as well as we wish. I will not trouble you with a detail of the proceedings of Congress but will inclose you papers which contain our New Money Act which together with the call for specific Supplies, the Requisition for quotas of Troops, a Resolution for making good the pay of the Army, and a resolution appointing a Committee of three, Schyler, Matthews, and Peabody to go to Camp with powers to adopt and carry into execution any plan respecting the Quarter Masters and Commissary's Department, constitute all the business of great consequence which has been completed. The last appears to me to be a contrivance to prevent our making any considerable alterations in those departments and to give consequence to a certain Individ.² in whose personal qualities and Individual Utility and importance, Congress have found much business and much alteration [altercation] and embarrassment.³

Tr (Nc-Ar: Governors' Letterbooks).

¹ Harnett's letter of February 22, 1780, is in *N.C. State Records*, 15:341-42.

² Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene.

³ The text ends abruptly at this point.

William Ellery to the Committee at Headquarters

Gent.

Philadelphia Apl. 15th 1780

I have a brother belonging to the State of R. Island &c whose name is Christopher & who is as honest a fellow as your humble servant, but ten times as active, and capable of conducting business with propriety and to advantage in the Qu. Ms or Commissary's departments.¹ If he can be employed in our State in either of those, or any other department without jostling out a worthy officer, and in a reputable Station I should be glad; therefore I would be much obliged to you if any vacancies should be made and be filled by you that you would appoint him or recommend him where you may not have the appointment. By so doing you will oblige the public and Yr hble Servt.

W Ellery

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78).

¹ For Ellery's unsuccessful efforts to obtain a position for his younger brother, Christopher, who was a member of the Rhode Island Council of War, see William M. Fowler, *William Ellery: A Rhode Island Politico and Lord of Admiralty* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1973), pp. 128-29.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jeremiah Wadsworth

D'r S'r,

Philada. Apr'l 15, 1780.

I am favored with your letters of the 21st of March and of the 2d and 3d of the present month.

I know your scituation and have done what I can to releive it—the result you have by Capt. Champion.¹ You would have less difficulty in obtaining money if Congress had it to give you. They are as much embarrassed for want of money as you are or can be. I should however have met with less opposition in obtaining warrants for you if I could have contradicted assertions that you had shewn no evidence to the Treasury of the mony's being paid over which you had already recd. tho' I do not believe there was a member present who had the least suspicion that you had misapplied a shilling. To pave the way therefore for further advancements I wish you could transmit to the Tre[a]sury the w[ar]ran[t]s of your Deputies or copies of them, for the monies you have paid them, which I think must be official proof that there is no money in your hands. . . .

MS not found; reprinted from Burnett, *Letters*, 5:113, which is there described as "Copied from the original, then in the possession of Mr. Stan. V. Henkels of Philadelphia."

¹ On April 14 Congress had appropriated \$4 million for Wadsworth, "late commissary general of purchases, to be by him applied for the payment of provisions purchased for the army by Henry Champion, while acting as his deputy," and this day apportioned the amount to be drawn on the four New England states. See *JCC*, 16:362, 367.

Samuel Huntington to Elbridge Gerry

Sir, Philadelphia April 15 1780

By the Act of Congress of this Day herewith inclosed You will be informed that on Monday next they will take into Consideration the Matters stated in your Letters of the 19th & 22d of Feby last & 3d Instant.¹

I have the Honor to be with Sentiments of Esteem & Respect, sir
your humble serv, Sam Huntington, President

Tr (MHi: Gerry Papers). In the hand of Elbridge Gerry.

¹ *JCC*, 16:368. For Gerry's controversy with Congress over the matter of his "privilege" as a member of that body, see Gerry's letters to Huntington of February 19, 22, and April 3, 17, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir Philadelphia April 15th. 1780.

I have been honoured with your Excellency's favour of the 10th of March, also, with your several Letters of the same date to the Delegates of Connecticut with the papers and Acts of Assembly to which they refer which have been duly noticed.¹

Congress have lately passd an Act makeing general provisions for the Exchange of Continental bills of the proscribed Emissions.² I have therefore returnd Docr Metcalf's money by Judge Sherman who set out yesterday for Connecticut. It is hoped Some one or more delegate will soon arrive from Connecticut.

I must beg liberty to refer to [Judge] Sherman for Intelligence as he will have the honour to wait on your Excellency by the time this comes to hand and can [*give*] you more particular information than could be containd in a Single Letter.

The late act of Congress for calling in by Taxes the present Continental Currency is very important and it appears to me the State that is foremost in the measure will probable receive the advantage but in no case can Suffer any disadvantage by taking the lead.³

We have no intelligence from S. Carolina since the 14th March, Somthing of importance may Soon be expected from that quarter.

My time is so incessantly employd in the Indispensible engagements allotted to me at present as obliges me to confide in my Collegues to Transmit to your Excellency & the State we have the honour to represent most of the Intelligence which is not Official, and I doubt not my particular Situation and confinement will plead an excuse for me in omitting what in other circumstances would Justly be deemed a neglect.

I have the honour to be, with Sentiments of the highest Esteem and respect, your Excellency's humble Servt,

Sam. Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ For these March 10 letters from Governor Trumbull, see Connecticut Delegates to Trumbull, March 23, 1780, note 1.

² Huntington is referring to Congress' March 28 resolve extending for a second time the deadline set for exchanging the May 20, 1777, and April 11, 1778, emissions which had been called out of circulation in January 1779. See *JCC*, 16:312.

³ That is, Congress' resolves of March 18 providing for the exchange of old issues of Continental currency at the rate of 40 to 1 and requesting the states to provide funds "to sink or redeem" the new bills. *JCC*, 16:262-66.

Samuel Huntington to Joseph Ward

Sir,

Philada April 15. 1780

By the Act of Congress of this Day herewith enclosed you will be informed they have been pleased to appoint you Commissary General of Prisoners.¹ As the Office is now vacant it is necessary to supply the Vacancy with as little Delay as possible. And it will give me Pleasure to receive an Answer signifying your Acceptance as soon as may be.²

I am Sir &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ For Ward's appointment to succeed John Beatty in this post, whose resignation had been accepted on March 31, see *JCC*, 16:319, 366. Huntington also sent a brief letter this day to Washington notifying him of Ward's appointment. PCC, item 14, fol. 329.

² Colonel Ward's May 3 letter to Congress declining this appointment is in PCC, item 78, 24:203-6. The position remained vacant until September 15, 1780, when Abraham Skinner was appointed commissary of prisoners, for which see *JCC*, 17:770, 788-89, 18:828.

Nathaniel Folsom to Josiah Bartlett

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia April 17th. 1780

I Recd. your feavour of the 11th of March¹ Tusday last which wase

Very Exceptable as I am allways well Pleased to here how our Public affairs go on—but lament that what was Done with the best Intentions to Serve the Public by those who from the begining have been faithfull frinds to the glorious opposition made against tyranny Should be by misconstruction false Representation be the means of Injuring the Public as well as Individuels, but we must go on and due our Duty and Prepair our backs to bare any thing they will Please to lay on us—But ingratitude and to be wounded in the house of our frinds is a trial we neede Peatience to bare up under—But the testimony of a good conscience in doing our Duty faithfully will be our best Support. On my arrivel at this Place the Deprishation of the Currancy wase So Rappid, the inhanced Price of all the nesareys of life wase So grate that it Seemed imposable to go on a month longer with our Public affairs—which drove us to Preportion the Subsistance of the army on the Several States—and to new Ragate and Establish the Currency. Since which money appresheats and Produce is falling and our Public affairs ware a more favourable aspect.

As to Vermont there wase Several Violent attempts by the Delegates of Newyork and Newhampshier to bring the matter before Congress but with out the least apperance of Success.

We Produced our Credenshalls the acts of the legislatuer empowering Congress to do every thing they had requiered of us—Seting forth at the Same time the grate Expence the State had been at by Complying with there Request but all to no Purpose. I wase informed by individuals that what had been done on that affair wase Done by Coaxing and driveing.

Therefore I have no Expectation of any Settlement till after the war is over if I Can believe the Present members—but all this is but my Private Judgement and I wood not have it made Public.

Mr. Livermore left this Place the 8th Instant who will give you a more Peticuler account to home I wood Refer you.² The accounts we have from Europe from our good frind & ally by way of his minister here, and by our agents in france are that we aught at all Events to make a Vigrous Campain this Summer that the haughtyness of the Cort of Britton will not allow them yet to acknowlege the Independence of these States that if they find they have any Ships to Spaire after makeing there own flagg triumphant in the Chaniel we may Depend on Sume in the Course of the Campaine. I hope genll. Whipple will be hurried on and that I may be Releved Soone.

The Massechuces have made application to Congress by there Delegates to Know whother they wood Pay for the Cost of the Expidishon to Pernopscut and to allow them to Keep back Part of this years tax on that account the latter wase complied with. We had Newhampshier Put to the trial with them but faild the members thought it wase time anough when the State made application.³

Remember me to all my old frinds and beleive to be as much
 Conserved for the Public as ever. I am with Sincer Respect your Very
 Humble. Servent,
 Nathl. Folsom

RC (NhD: Bartlett Papers).

¹ Bartlett's March 11 letter to Folsom is in Bartlett, *Papers* (Mevers), pp. 277-79.

² Samuel Livermore had come to Philadelphia in February as New Hampshire's special delegate to settle the Vermont issue, but his credentials for this appointment expired on March 1. For his frustration over Congress' inability to take action on the New Hampshire Grants' controversy, see Livermore to Meshech Weare, March 14 and 21, 1780.

³ This effort to have New Hampshire's claim for Penobscot expedition expenses considered simultaneously with the "application" submitted by Massachusetts is not recorded in the journals.

Elbridge Gerry to Abigail Adams

My dear Madam

Philadelphia 17th April 1780

By the last Post I was honored with your Letter of the 13th March, communicating in Confidence your Sentiments on a certain publication in the Philadelphia Paper, which had been too striking to escape the Notice of Mr. A[dams]'s Friends in this Quarter.¹

It is not easy to ascertain the Intentions, of the philosophical Society in their Election of Mr. A——s, or how far they were concerned in making such an invidious Distinction, but it is highly probable that the List was sent to the press by some of their Members, & certain it is, they might have corrected the Measure, had they disapproved thereof. Nevertheless Madam, to pursue these Enquiries, I presume, will be no Ways pleasing to You, if "the Honor & Character" of our Friend can be guarded by any Mode that is more agreeable, & at the same Time that promises as happy an Effect.

Previous to the Audience of Mr. Gerard, who was the first foreign Minister received by Congress, it was determined, that all Ministers plenipotentiary, whether sent to or from Congress, should have the Title of "honorable"; & altho this appeared to many Members unequal to the Dignity of the Office, yet, in all the publick proceedings of Congress, the Rule has been invariably observed to the present Time. Doctor F[ranklin], Mr. A——s, and Mr. J[a];² are by their respective Appointments Ministers plenipotentiary, and no one who has seen their Instructions can suppose, that the Powers of Mr. A——s are less, or indeed that they are not more important than what are given to either of the other Gentlemen. D——r F——n's Commission not being renewed represents him to have been "Deputy from the State of Pennsylvania to the General Congress & president to the Convention of the said State." Mr. A——s "late Commissioner of the united States of America at the Court of Versailles, late Delegate in Congress from the State of Massachusetts Bay & chief

Justice of the sd State" and Mr. J—y's "late president of Congress, and chief Justice of the State of New York," from all which I think it evident, that whether We refer to the Commissions, Instructions, or Appointments of the Gentlemen mentioned, Mr. A——'s Rank is at least equal to either of the others, & by the Resolutions of Congress, he has the same Title.

But the Subject, as You justly consider it Madam, is delicate in it's Nature, & requires Measures that point not directly at the Object. I am therefore of Opinion, that it will be well, for the Information of the Friends & Correspondents of our Ministers plenipotentiary and the Secretaries of the Embassies, to publish such Circumstances as have been mentioned relative to their respective Commissions & Titles, in the same Paper in which the List of the Society was published. It may also be proper to have Mr. A——s appointed a Member of the "American Academy of Arts & Sciences," for the Institution whereof I have been lately informed a Bill is depending in the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts;³ & should You think it expedient to consult our Friend General Warren on the Occasion, he will undoubtedly promote the Appointment, & see that it is properly communicated to the publick. A third Mode will be attempted, but I am doubtful whether it will succeed, which is to move Congress to grant a more dignified Title than "honorable" to all Ministers plenipotentiary, whether sent to or from Congress; for indeed they will always have it *de Facto* if not *de Jure*.

The Attempts mentioned in your Letter to traduce Mr. A——s in France, are convincing Proofs of the Necessity of opposing every measure of this Kind, however trifling it may at first appear; & I assure You Madam that on every Occasion I shall with the greatest pleasure endeavour to support him as a particular Friend, as well as a valuable Statesman.

At Mr. A——s Request in Novr. last I transmitted You the Rate of Exchange of Specie,⁴ which is now sold in this City from 60 to 62£ for I, & remain with every Sentiment of Respect your sincere Friend & most humble Sert.,

E.G.

RC (MH: Adams Papers); Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:323-25.

¹ Gerry and Abigail Adams were referring to a notice in the January 27 issue of the *Pennsylvania Packet*, reporting the election of members to the American Philosophical Society, in which John Adams was entitled "The Honorable" while John Jay was called "His Excellency." For discussion of this issue, see *ibid.*, pp. 297-99nn.1, 2 and 8.

² The many corrections and interlineations Gerry made in the draft of his letter at this point indicate the great pains he took to avoid offending Abigail on this "delicate" subject. Gerry's draft is in PPAmP.

³ John Adams was listed as one of the incorporators of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences when the act establishing the society passed the Massachusetts General Court on May 4, 1780. Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:325n.3.

⁴ See Gerry to Abigail Adams, November 24, 1779.

Elbridge Gerry to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Philadelphia 17th April 1780

Perceiving by the Resolution inclosed in your Letter of Saturday last,¹ that Congress have assigned this Day to "take into Consideration the Matters stated in my Letters of the 19th & 22d of Feby last and 3d Instant," I think it necessary to inform them, that as my Sentiments are fully expressed in the said Letters, I propose not to take up the Time of the House with further Observations on the Subject. Nevertheless, being always desirous of meeting the Inclination of Congress, I shall attend them, on Notice that they think it expedient, & have the Honor to be sir with great Respect, your most obedt. & most hum sert.

E Gerry

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78).

¹ See Huntington to Gerry, April 15, 1780. Gerry's decision to rebuff this congressional overture to take into consideration his complaint against Congress' denial of his "privilege as a member" on February 18 effectively closed this chapter in the dispute. See Gerry to Huntington, February 19, 1780. Although he remained in Philadelphia until June 3, he did not return to Congress until August 1783.

Samuel Holten to Jabez Fisher

Dear Sir.¹

Philadelphia April 17th. 1780.

Your constant exertions in the great cause of our Country can't but make you highly respected by all her true friends; that has the pleasure of your acquaintance; Therefore in this light I hope to be considered in addition to personal respect.

It is now five years since the commencement of this war and great difficulties we have had to encounter; another campaign is opening upon us, & I am sorry to say we are poorly prepared for it, the depreciation of our currency has greatly deranged & embarrassed our *public* affairs, and I might add almost put a total stop to the movements of our armies, and 'tho' I can't but suppose the Honble. Assembly are sensible of the state to which we are reduced, yet do they really consider their own danger & how much we have at stake, & not ownly ourselves but posterity, for what value are our lives & estates to us, if the common cause is not supported; but it may be said what can be done more by this people, I answer, that I think they can relieve themselves & I believe they wou'd if they were fully sensible of their danger, men, money, & provisions are the principal things wanted, but the two latter I am most concerned about, for without them it will be impossible to keep the army together; I believe you will agree with me that the recommendations of Congress shou'd be carryed *fully* into effect if possible for in this union of strength &

exertion is our greatest security; But don't think (my worthy friend) I despair of the common cause, no, it is two good & just for me to admit a doubt of the final success; yet we may be further reduced before the good people will see their danger & exert themselves accordingly; Congress are sensible of their situation & are exerting themselves to put a stop to all unnecessary expences in the great departments of the army & to that end have lately appointed a com. with *very* great powers, they are to endeavour to find out the abuses & rectify them & to carry their plans into effect *even* before they report to congress; The unnecessary expences in these departments (I make no doubt) has been great, but it is not so much to be wondered at when we consider how we were driven into this war.

I intended to have wrote you more particularly respecting our national affairs in Europe, but have ownly time to add, that from the best intelligence, I have reason to believe that things are going on there as well as can be expected all circumstances considered; But I make no doubt the minister of France & other Gentn. of distinction here (from foreign Nations) see with concern to what state Congress are reduced.

I am, my dear Sir, with great respect, your most obedient,

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Jabez Fisher (1717-1806) of Franklin, Mass., was a member of the Massachusetts Council, 1766-72 and 1776-79, and the Massachusetts Senate, 1780-84. Mortimer Blake, *A History of Franklin, Massachusetts* (Franklin: Privately Printed, 1879), p. 157.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Mifflin and Timothy Pickering

Sir, Philada April 17th 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 14th Instant herewith enclosed you will receive their thanks for the Attention you have given to the Business committed to yourself and Colo. Pickering.¹

And also be informed that the remainder of the Business from the Necessity of the Case is referred to the Committee who are to proceed to Head Quarters.

I am Sir &c &c,

S. H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14). Addressed: "General Mifflin. N.B. The same to Colo Pickering."

¹ *JCC*, 16:364. For "the Business committed to yourself," the retrenchment of expenses and reform of the staff departments, see the notes to Huntington's letters to Mifflin and to Philip Schuyler, January 24, 1780.

James Lovell to Augustin Mottin de La Balme

Sir, Philadelphia April 17th. 1780

I inclose to you certified Copies of the Letters which you brought from Europe to the President of Congress. I think it needless to add Copies of those which you delivered to Genl. Washington and to the Committee for foreign Affairs, containing similar Accounts of your military Accomplishments & very reputable Conduct in Life.

I count it a Misfortune that America did not longer than seven months enjoy the Benefit of your Exertions as Inspector General of Cavalry, for the Execution of which Office your published Treatises evince you to be eminently qualified.¹

I am, Sir, Your Friend,

James Lovell

RC (British Museum: Additional Manuscripts, 21,844).

¹ For Col. de La Balme's publications and career in the Continental Army, from which he resigned in February 1778, see these *Letters*, 7:207, 221, 293, 8:383-84, 559-60, 9:71.

Massachusetts Delegates to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia April 17. 1780

We have the Honor of forwarding at this Time a Warrant for two millions of Dollars granted for the Use of the State before Mr. Partridge left Philadelphia but not then carried through the necessary Forms.¹

The inclosed Extract from the Journals with the Information which our Colleague can give will prove how the main Point relative to the Expences on the Penobscot Expedition was left undecided.² He will also enable the General Assembly to judge whether it was proper for the Delegates to push strenuously for a Decision of that Point during the then apparent Temper of Congress, or to wait for further Directions from the Court.

We have the Honor to be with great Respect, Sir, Your most humble Servants.

James Lovell

S. Holten

[P.S.] Mr. Gerry had stepped abroad after approving [this] letter & the bearer could not [wait his return].

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Written by Lovell, and signed by Lovell and Holten. Addressed: "Honble. President of the Council of Massachusetts Bay."

¹ George Partridge had left Philadelphia on April 9. For the warrant referred to here, see Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council, April 14, 1780.

² For the “inclosed Extract,” which consists of “Propositions” moved in Congress by the Massachusetts delegates on March 22 but were not actually entered on the journals, see *JCC*, 16:276-77. Although Congress did not endorse Massachusetts’ request to make the costs of the Penobscot expedition a Continental expense, it did approve retention by the state of \$2 million collected in Massachusetts—“until the accounts of the expence [of the expedition] could be prepared and submitted to the consideration of Congress.” See *JCC*, 16:339-41; and James Lovell to Samuel Adams, April 9, 1780.

John Morin Scott to William Floyd and Ezra L’Hommedieu?

Dear Gentlemen¹ 12 oClock at Night Monday, April 17th. 1780

I wish I had abundance of News to You, but I have not. This however will be agreeable—there are certain Accots. up to the 1st. instant from St. Eustatia that 12 or 15 Sail (French) of the Line with a large Body of land forces are arrived in the West Indies—Monsr. Dechaffaut’s Squadron. By an intercepted Letter dated London 14th Janry. from a Scotchman to his Son a Lieut. & adjutant in one of the British Regiments, & taken by a Baltimore privateer, in a Ship bound to the Savannah, the Original produced by Colo. Plaiter in Congress, We are informed of the following plan of Operations for the ensuing Campaign & future prosecution of the War in N. America—posts to be secured in which the enemy are to be on the defensive vizt. Hallifax, Penobscot, N. York, Portsmouth in Virginia, Charlestown, Savannah, St. Augustine—Their Navy to scour our Coast & interrupt our Trade. This Evng. a Gent. came to speak to General Schuyler who confidently informed, that on the News of the Spaniards disaster off Gibraltar, the British Ministry were so elated that the Irish Parliament was immediately dissolved; and the Sedition in Consequence of it rose so high that the Gentry by an extraordinary Exertion had imprisoned the Lord Lieutenant. This however I would not have reported till further Advice. The post will not go till 10 oClock tomorrow. If in the Morng. I hear more of this I will communicate it to You; & if the Intelligence should be obtained at a later hour, You shall have it by a private hand, which will offer in two days. The largest of the inclosed was recd. by General Schuyler in Congress.² He concieving from its Size, that it contained Matters of public Intelligence broke the Seal in my presence. The Subscription was the first Thing looked at. I saw it signed E. Hazard; & knowing that You had a private Correspondence with him, it was immediately closed up without Reading. I am dear Gent. sincerely yours,

Jno. Morin Scott

¹ Although the recipients of this letter are not identified, the tone and substance of Scott's remarks suggest that they were members of Congress and reasonably abreast of recent developments. William Floyd and Ezra L'Hommedieu, who were brothers-in-law, had apparently left Philadelphia together about April 4. See Scott to James Duane, April 13, 1780. Finally, the letter is located in a substantial Ezra L'Hommedieu manuscript collection that remains in the hands of a descendant, Mr. Andrew Fiske.

² Scott's enclosures can not be identified.

William Ellery to William Greene

Sir,

Philadelphia Apl. 18th. 1780.

Your excellency in a letter of the 8th of last March informed me, that the account of the State against the United States was very large and that it would soon be forwarded.¹ The sooner it comes to hand the better. Very lately a draft was reported on our State for five hundred thousand dollars in favour of the late Commissary Genl. I opposed it with all my might, told Congress that a warrant for that sum would exhaust the last farthing of the debt due on our quota of taxes, and that I daily expected that the State would present their accounts and demand a very large ballance. In this way I got it reduced to one hundred thousand dollars.² The people urge so pressingly the payment of their debts, and it is so necessary to preserve or rather recover credit, that warrants are continually issuing wherever there is any prospect of their being answered. The want of punctuality in paying their taxes where the quotas were large, has depreciated the money greatly, and greatly embarrassed our Affairs.

I acquainted your Excellency in my last that I had written to Genl. Washington as I was requested.³ The Genl. writes me that he had informed you of the improbability of his being able to comply with your request. I hope however that the recruits the army may receive may still render it prudent for him to continue the battalion of blacks in the State.

I have lately received a letter from Genl. Varnum informing me that he was directed by the Genl. Assembly to request me to act and do every thing necessary in behalf of the State for their obtaining a confirmation of the decree in favor of the State against the Sloop Crawford. No appeal hath been lodged with the Secretary, notwithstanding months have elapsed since it was granted, and therefore I presume the Appellants do not mean to prosecute it.⁴ Fees are enormously high here; and it would be impossible for me to get money enough to fee Council without hiring money the treasury [is] so much exhausted, and therefore I hope the matter will be dropped by the Appellants.

A fleet of 12 ships of the line have arrived at Martinico with a number of troops, which gives the french a superiority in the W.

Indias. I wish they could spare us half of them to be employed agst the enemy to the Southward.

We have no late intelligence from Genl. Lincoln. Troops are constantly marching into South-Carolina I am informed and it is expected that if we are able to keep possession of the harbour of Charlestown, we shall have force enough by land to keep the town.

A Committee hath lately been appointed to repair to head quarters to arrange departments &c &c &c. Inclosed is a copy of the instructions given to them; which points out their business more particularly than I could do it by a relation. It is expected that great advantage will result to the public from this measure.

Congress have too passed an act for making good to the line of the army and the independant corps thereof, the deficiency of their original pay &c.⁵ This I also take the liberty to inclose to your excellency. These are the most material acts which have passed Congress; since I last had the honour of writing to you.

We are upon a plan for liquidating the value of Loan-Office certificates, determining to do justice to the holders of them as exactly as possible; when this is agreed to, I will transmit it.⁶

As I have done I mean to give every information, and to perform every service in my power, which may be beneficial to the State, so long as I shall continue to represent it in Congress; and whenever my constituents shall please to displace me, I shall go out with the satisfaction of having discharged my duty at least with firmness & integrity.

I am with the highest sentiments of respect, Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

William Ellery

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Governor Greene's March 8 letter to Ellery is in Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 276.

² The warrant on Rhode Island was part of a larger package of \$4 million to be collected from the New England states. See Oliver Ellsworth to Jeremiah Wadsworth, April 15, 1780.

³ See Ellery to Washington, March 29, 1780.

⁴ There is no documentation in the PCC or the prize cases of RG 267, DNA, to indicate that the case was appealed.

⁵ Greene had reported in his March 8 letter that Rhode Island had acted to protect the state's troops from inflation—"their wages are to be made equally as good in silver as it was at the commencement of the war." Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 276. Ellery is here responding to Greene and quoting Congress' resolve of April 10, for which see Samuel Holten to George Partridge, April 11, 1780, note 2.

⁶ The fiscal crisis of 1780 had repercussions affecting every form of financial management experimented with by Congress, and in the aftermath of their repudiation of the Continental dollar on March 18, the delegates studied various proposals for adjusting Continental Army pay to inflation and for compensating the holders of Continental Loan Office certificates as well as certificates issued by the commissary and quartermaster departments. Concern for the latter led Congress on May 26 to request the states to declare taxes receivable in certificates issued by staff departments, for which see *JCC*, 17:462-66. The obligations of the Continental Loan Office, however, were accorded special treatment. Although no specific measures were announced

at this time, Congress nevertheless resolved this day to "make such provision for [loan office certificates] . . . as that the holders of them shall sustain no loss thereon, by any depreciation." Two months would elapse, however, before Congress adopted a sliding scale for adjusting the principal and interest due on loan office certificates and developed "proper tables" for the direction of the Continental Loan Office commissioners in the several states. See *JCC*, 16:374-75, 17:567-69; and Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, June 27, note 1. See also Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 22, 1780, note.

For a catalog of objections raised against Congress' decision this day to protect loan office certificate holders from the effects of inflation, see John Morin Scott to George Clinton, April 19, 1780. The attempts by Congress to respond to the needs of the holders of Continental obligations during the later stages of the war have been placed in perspective and analyzed by E. James Ferguson, *The Power of the Purse* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961), pp. 62-69.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 18-19, 1780]

18. Tuesday. I wrote to Mrs. Holten (no. 114).¹ I met the medical committee.

19. Wednesday. It is five years this day since the war commenced. I dined with the president of Congress.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Only an extract from this letter to his wife has been found: "don't think I despair of the great cause—no, not if the army should be disbanded, which many suppose will soon be the case." *The Month at Goodspeeds* 31 (May 1960): 196.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia April 18, 1780¹

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed Acts of Congress of the 6th & 13th Instant appointing a Committee to repair to Head Quarters to confer with the Commander in Chief &c and containing Instructions for their Government.²

Also another Act of the 10th Instant containing Assurances that as soon as Circumstances will admit to make [good] to the Line of the Army and independant Corps thereof the Deficiency of their original Pay occasioned by Depreciation including whatever they may have received as expressed in the Act, and limiting this Provision to such as were engaged during the War or for three Years and are now in Service or shall be hereafter engaged during the War.³

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellency's
humble Servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ This letter was copied into the presidential letterbook under the date April 20. PCC, item 14, fol. 331.

² See Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6–13, 1780.

³ *JCC*, 16:344-45.

Massachusetts Delegates to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia April 18th. 1780

Before we had the Honor of receiving your Letter of March 19th¹ by Doctor Eustis Congress had taken up the Subject of Compensation for the Staff Departments of the Army on the Ground of a depreciated Currency.

The inclosed Papers will discover the present Stage of that Business and the Proceedings of Congress in Consequence of a Commitment of your Letter. When the Committee to whom That was referred shall have made their general Report we shall do ourselves the Honor to communicate the Result, which we hope will be satisfactory to the Honorable Assembly.

We are with great Respect, Sir, Your most obedient Humble Servants.

E. Gerry

James Lovell

S. Holten

RC (M–Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Written by Lovell, and signed by Lovell, Gerry, and Holten. Addressed: “Honble. President of the Council of Massachusetts Bay.”

¹ The Massachusetts General Court’s March 29 [*not* “19th”] letter to its delegates directed them to determine whether Massachusetts men serving in the army’s “General Staff would be considered as forming part of our Quota” and thus entitled to the benefits provided men in the Massachusetts Line, and if Congress should “think otherwise you will then inform the General Court whether Congress mean to make a particular Provision for them equivalent to what has been made for the officers & Soldiers of the 15 Battalions.” The letter was read in Congress on April 12 and referred to the committee appointed on April 10 “to report a proper compensation to the staff of the army in consequence of the depreciation of the currency.” See *JCC*, 16:353; and PCC, item 65, 1:428. See also William Ellery to William Greene, this date, note 5.

John Mathews to Horatio Gates

Dear sir, Philadelphia April 18th. 1780

I received your favour of the 7th Inst. the 13th. Whatever may be the fate of South Carolina, I have this consolation, that I have done my duty to my Country, by pointing out in time the means for it’s

preservation, & had the remedy at that time been applyed, I have little doubt of it's having proved effectual, let it's loss fall on those Shoulders, whom, it of right ought to do, & let them, if they can, acquit themselves to the union, to their Allies. The subject is too melancholy to be dwelt on.

We have no European news except the affair of taking the Spanish Ships off Gibralter, which you have in the public papers. As to Domestic, I know of none.

A Committee of Congress are appointed—Genl. Schuyler, Mr. Peabody, & myself—to regulate the Staff departments.¹ What success we shall meet with, or whether we shall do any good, time only can shew. That there are abuses, & very gross ones, no body doubts & its high time some enquiry was made into them.

I am Dr sir, with much Esteem & Regard, yr. most Obedt. servt.
Jno. Mathews

RC (MH-H: Sparks Manuscripts).

¹ For the selection and mission of this committee, see Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6–13, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

Dear Sir, (Private.) Philadelphia April 18th 1780.

The news papers announce all the foreign Intelligence received by Congress and something more, except that of the Enemy's Intended plan of operations for the Opening Campaign which we believe we are possessed of. I enter not Into a Minute detail, least this letter Should Miscarry; let It Suffice to observe to your Excellency, that I think It will, on their parts, Evaporate as the last did especially to the Northward, If Supplies can be furnished for the Army To the Southward, I fear they will make an extensive penetration Into South Carolina, for I have no great hopes that the troops In Charlestown will be able to make Effectuall opposition. I wish they may not be Caged; all was well there on the 21st ult. but a private letter of a later date advises that the Roebuck had passed the bar and would have her Cannon on board In ten hours. If this is fact, we shall soon have some serious Intelligence from thence.

The Enemy have published one of my Letters which they took from Mr. Crane at Paramus;¹ one to Your Excellency, another to Mrs. Schuyler & a third to Colo. Lewis have not Yet appeared In print²—their view in publishing mine appears to be to announce to their friends that we were under some difficulty with respect to our Finances, for it otherwise afforded them little consolation.

Maryland & Delaware continue unrepresented, so that the Vermont business still hangs by the Eyelids.

Mr. Livingston is gone into Jersey.³ I am one of a Committee directed to repair to the army, for the purpose of arranging all the staff departments, thereof; this business and that of visiting the different posts East of Jersey will take much of my time, so that General Scott will be left alone, and altho our business will not Suffer In his hands, Yet Sickness may prevent his constant attendance; would It not, therefore, be prudent to hasten Mr. Duane on. I hope Your Excellency has received the act of Congress allowing pay & subsistence to the men to be raised for the defence of our frontiers.⁴

Please to make my respects acceptable to Mrs. Clinton. I am, D'r Sir, your Excellency's most obedient Servant Ph: Schuyler.

RC (N: Clinton Papers); Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:642-45. RC damaged; missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ See Schuyler to Jacob Cuyler?, March 11, 1780.

² These three letters have not been found.

³ Robert R. Livingston apparently left this day for New Jersey to attend his wife during the birth of their child. He attended Congress on April 17. *JCC*, 16:371.

⁴ See New York Delegates to Clinton, April 4, 1780, note 2.

Committee at Headquarters' Orders

In Committee of Congress, for arranging the staff departments of the Army, retrenching public Expences, &c. April 19th. 1780.¹

Ordered, That the Commissary General of Issues, or his Deputy, in the middle district, be, and hereby are directed, on the first day of May next, to abolish the Office of magazine keeper at the post of Philadelphia and to discharge, from that service the following persons—Vizt.

No. 1. George Baker—keeper of the Magazine.

No. 3. John Coleman. Asst. to do.

5. Christian Stearly. Laborer to do.

7. Casper Stoodle. Labourer to Do

9. Adam Custend. ditto

11. Max Neisett

13. Jno. Hymer. Ditto.

15. John Norton. Cooper.

17. John Faulkner. Cooper.

19. Jno. Jacob Butler Ditto

No. 2. John Sprout—Clk to Ditto.

4. Casper Washman. Asst. to Ditto.

6. Jno. Asmenger. Labr. to Do.

8. Philip Hoffman. do. do.

10. Jacob Benner. Ditto.

12. Mathias Dulman. Ditto.

14. Phillip Spillman, Ditto.

16. Jno. Mouse. Cooper

18. George Housen. porters Ditto.

And That the business lately done and transacted in that Office, be for the future transacted by the Assistant Commissary of Issues,

who shall be allowed one additional Clerk, if necessary, to enable him to discharge the duties thereof.

P. Schuyler

(Copy)

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

In Committee of Congress, April 19. 1780.

Ordered, That the Quarter Master General, or his deputy in the City of Philadelphia, do, on or before the 1st day of May next, discharge from the public service the following Persons employed under his direction in the City of Philadelphia—Vizt. 17 Carpenters—One Assistant store Keeper, One Assistant Barrack Master, and his Clerk and 4 Messengers, and that he do make return to the Committee of the names of the persons so discharged, and also of those retained in the service in the places before mentioned, We are &c.²

P. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

copy

Nathl. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ For the election of the committee and its mission, see Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6–13, 1780. Before proceeding to headquarters, the committee exercised its directive "to abolish unnecessary posts" and "to discharge useless officers" by ordering these reforms in the civil establishments in Philadelphia.

² This day the committee also wrote to Solomon Maxwell, appointing him superintendent of provisions at Christiana, Del., and authorizing him to employ a full-time cooper and to hire others as needs dictated, for which he would keep "regular accounts." PCC, item 11, fol. 287.

Massachusetts Delegates to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia April 19th. 1780

We have been obliged to advance the Sum of six hundred Dollars upon the Principles mentioned in our Letter of the 15th Instant,¹ to three valuable young Sailors, whose Receipt we do ourselves the Honer now to inclose.

We are, with much Respect, Sir, your most obedient, humble Servants,

E Gerry

James Lovell

S. Holten

Gerry and Holten. Addressed: "Honble President of the Council of Massachusetts Bay."

¹ Not found.

John Morin Scott to George Clinton

Sir

Philadelphia April 19th. 1780

I was in hopes to have been able before this Time to inform You of some effectual Measures in Congress for reducing the Seditious in the northeastern parts of our State¹ to a due Submission to Government. That Business was the Order of the day, very shortly after my Arrival hither; but the alarming Derangement of Finance compelled us to give Way to the pressing Request of Congress for giving the preference to that Business of interesting & universal Concern. The Transaction of that Business consumed so much Time, that Maryland became unrepresented by the death of Mr. Forbes.² In consequence of this, Georgia being also unrepresented, & the three States of N. Hampshire, Massachusetts and N. York being by the express Terms of the Resolution of Congress excluded from voting in the Controversy, We have hitherto had no Opportunity of bringing on our Case. A Representation from Maryland is daily expected. When that takes place I shall endeavor to bring it on without the Loss of a Moment, tho' under great Disadvantages. General Schuyler is going on a Committee to Head Quarters for reforming the Staff &ca, to be attended with a Visitation of the Posts; which will render his Return before Autumn improbable. Messrs. Floyd & L'Houmedieu have returned home some Time since. Mr Livingston is gone to attend on his Lady at her Fathers; and from thence he intends to return to our State; having left Me slender hopes of his coming to Congress again unless sent for—So that in two days I shall be left alone to represent the State & manage the Affair of our Eastern Boundary. As far however as concerns the Question of Jurisdiction between the three States on the one part, and the Grants on the other part which is to be determined by Congress itself, I shall press forward without the Loss of a Moment; hoping tho' not waiting for Mr Duane, to whom I wrote some Time since,³ requesting his immediate Attendance. I must entreat You to urge him to it. The Law respecting our Western Boundary was laid before Congress soon after it was recd.⁴ It was agreeably received by some Members, as an Instance of our Generosity; by others with some Jealousy. A Committee however was appointed to take it into Consideration & Report; but on a disagreement they were discharged. I will endeavor to get another appointed; for tho' we cannot by the Terms of the Law do any thing conclusively without the presence of three of our delegates, yet the Matter may be put *en train*. Give Me Leave Sir thro' You to

urge the State with the most pressing Instance, to adopt our plan of Finance, however it may in the Judgement of some be not so clear of Objections as might be wished. The Dye is cast & for certain Reasons which it may not be proper to express, the more especially as they must be sufficiently obvious to You, the plan must be complied with. Let Me also in the most urgent Manner press the immediate filling up of our Battalions, if since the last returns they should require it, & the prompt Levy & payment of our Taxes, & Contribution of the specific Supplies for the Army. I need not particularize, for I suppose You well know how extremely pressing the demands of the Continent are on those Subjects.

A Resolution lately passed Congress for making good at a future day the Deficiencies in the pay of the Line of the Army occasioned by depreciation. I am happy to hear that it gives the honest brave fellows high Satisfaction. Something of this kind will be done for the Staff or at least a part of it when it shall be reformed. I inclose You in Substance the proceedings of Congress of yesterday on Loan Office Certificates.⁵ Unluckily I was attending the Board of War when the Business was brought on; but I shall move for a Reconsideration of the Resolution for the Evident Mischief contained in the latter part of it. These are my Reasons (1) The Certificates are negotiable & therefore, as well as the Bills of Credit a circulating Medium. (2) They have an advantage over the other because they bear interest. They will therefore depreciate the other and work agt. the Plan of Finance by encouraging Speculation & thereby preventing the Fixation of Bills of Credit at 40 for one. (3) Public Credit is no more engaged for supporting them than the other; and the Establishment of them on the footing of the Resolution, arraigns the Justice of the Plan of Finance with respect to the Bills of Credit. (4) Strict Justice requires no more than that the Purchase Money & the Interest be paid to the Purchasor. (5) No Member of Community ought to be allowed to jobb in the Public Funds because such Commerce must be injurious to the Community. (6) It will be dangerous to the Liberties of America by contributing to the Destruction of that Equality of Property which is essential to the Existence of Republics. (7) If it will be subversive of the Plan of Finance respecting the Bills of Credit, it will be subversive of the Liberties of America; because the Continuance of the War to Advantage will necessarily depend on the due Execution of that Plan.

I could wish the Printed Copies of the Laws passed the last Meeting of the Legislature may be sent us as soon as possible; & beg to be informed when the next meeting will be.

All prospect of removing from this Place for some time to come is at an End. For however disgusting our Stay here is to Congress and the Inhabitants, our removal at the Opening of a Campaign

would probably be attended with the Loss of a Month; and therefore with too much danger to permit the Attempt.

We are in great Fear for Charles Town; and our Fear is increased by the retreat of our Naval Force (which I apprehend is not well commanded) from the Bar to Sullivan's Island. Should the Enemy pass Fort Moultrie on that Island & drive our Ships from that Station they would possess themselves of Cooper River with a naval force most probably sufficient to compel the Evacuation of the Town, & reduce General Lincoln to the Necessity of covering the Country with our whole force. We find however much Consolation in the Confidence We place in the cool firmness & good Sense of the General, and his Zeal in the Service, tho' We feel ourselves much disappointed at the Abandonment of the Bar; over which by the last Accots (22d Ult.) the Roebuck had got, & would be able to get her Cannon mounted again in 10 hours. We have had no official accounts from thence since the 14th Ult. and are big with hourly Expectations.

Some Time since we were (tho' not officially but I believe truly) informed of the Enemies Plan of Operations for the ensuing Campaign.⁶ It is as follows to secure the Posts of Hallifax, Penobscot, N. York, Charlestown & Savannah; to enable them, on a Treaty of Peace to claim a Cession of the Province of Main, South Carolina & Georgia. This System is verified by an original Letter from a Campbel in Britain to his Son a Lieutenant. & Adjutant in a British Regiment here; wherein he informs him that the Plan is to secure the Posts at Hallifax, Penobscot, New York, Portsmouth in Virginia, Charlestown, Savannah & St Augustine, to act defensively at these Posts, & offensively agt. the Trade of America. The Letter was taken in a Prize bound to Georgia & has been transmitted to a Member of & read in Congress. We have no later News from Europe than an Accot. of the disaster of our Friends the Spaniards off Gibraltar—not so heightened as the British Accot. makes it; which however I believe is nearest the Truth. It is a capital Stroke against Us; for which we daily comfort ourselves with an Expectation of good News from the two Floridas. No Accounts yet of Mr Jay's Arrival. We are strangely destitute of Intelligence from that Quarter. I wish Philosophy *there* may not have taken Place of Politics too much. An attempt to send a Resident to the Court of France, which had the Voice of N York, has miscarried. A Secretary is now to be appointed, the Gent. we had in View for a Resident will not accept the Secretaryship. For obvious Reasons We shall endeavor to get one from the Southward.⁷

As Lieut. Colonel Reignier of the 2d New York Battalion has resigned⁸ I hope Major Fish's Rank & Merit will claim the Attention of the Council of Appointment for this Vacancy; which I believe is his undoubted Right in our Line especially as the Vacancy is in his Regiment. A Resolution has been passed on the recommendation of

the Board of War agt. making *new* Appointments,⁹ with an Eye to a Reduction of the Army; but was not intended to Prevent Promotions; which is the Birthright of an Officer & of which he cannot while in service be deprived without great Injustice & a discouragement to the Service. The executive Council of this State have lately called on the Board of War for their Sense on the Resolution. We have given it as above; and I believe they are acting upon it. I hope our Council will secure to our Line their Promotion; and should it be extended to the Major I should, while I consider him as a Son, esteem & have a grateful Sense of it, as a Promotion in my Family.

I must again intreat You, Sir, to urge Mr Duane's immediate Attendance. A single representation, considering the Danger of Accidents, is too precarious to be relied on. Beg him to bring with him all the Evidence he has collected since my departure, & particularly authenticated Copies of the 2d & 3d Cession of the five Nations, for their Country of Habitation & their Beaver hunting Country acquired by the Sword. The first Cession I have. Since our last Instructions we have avoided without Suspicion, any Explanations with New Hampshire; they are warmly opposed with Us to Vermont. Half of their Present Representation is as warm agt. & Jealous of Massachusetts & Connecticut, as of Vermont. Massachusetts has not yet passed her Act of Submission; and I believe, she intends to lie by till a future opportunity. However Congress *must* by the Express Words of their Resolution proceed between the Grants & such of the three States as have submitted. So that as soon as Maryland is represented I shall insist on their taking up the Business.

I wish to make my Compliments to your good Lady acceptable as well as to all my friends & acquaintances at Poghkepsie & its Environs as if they were particularly named.

I have the Honor to be with, Great Respect, Your Excellency's most obedt Servt.

Jno. Morin Scott

P.S. Pray let Me [*be*] favored with a Line as often as You have *nothing else to do*.

RC (CtY: Pequod Library Collection).

¹ That is, Vermont or the New Hampshire Grants.

² James Forbes had died March 25.

³ See Scott to James Duane, April 13, 1780.

⁴ See William C. Houston to Robert Morris, March 6, 1780, note 4.

⁵ See William Ellery to William Greene, April 18, 1780, note 6.

⁶ See Scott to the New York Assembly, April 17, 1780.

⁷ A motion to name "a resident, instead of a secretary to the Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Versailles," apparently to attract Robert R. Livingston to accept the post, had been made in February, but it was not brought to a vote until April 17. As a result of the rejection of the motion, Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina was nominated "secretary to the embassy to the Court of Versailles" this day, but the position was never filled. See *JCC*, 16:168, 371-72; and Robert R. Livingston to John Jay, February 10, 1780, note 3.

⁸ For the resignation of Lt. Col. Pierre Regnier de Roussi, see *JCC*, 16:372, 376.

⁹ See *JCC*, 16:272-73.

James Duane to Mary Duane

My dearest Polly, Morris Town Head Quarters 20 April 1780.

I wrote you two days since¹ from Mr. Lot's by Doctor Thompson which he promised to dispatch to make you easy on Account of my Journey. I have spent the time since very agreeably with the General & his Family. The Chevalier Luzern Minister of France his Secretary and my old Acquaintance Don Juan Miralles, who all reached Head Quarters on a Visit the day after my Arrival. The Minister appears to be a polite Gentleman of easy manners, very affable & attentive. Monsieur Gerard the late minister, he says, mentiond me to him with particular Regard. The Secretary Monsieur Marebois is a Gentleman of great Knowledge and agreeable address, & every way calculated to please. They with the Don are here merely on a military Visit. There is to be a Review and Ball on Monday for their Entertainment, but I shall stay no longer than to have an Interview with General Schuyler who will be up to morrow with a Committee on Business with the Commander in Chief & be detaind probably a fortnight or longer. I do not wish to go forward till I have some Conversation with him on the State of our publick Affairs: especially as I hear the Chancellor² has left Congress with an Intention to return home.

We have no news from South Carolina to be depended upon later than the 14th March. At that time the Enemy had made no Impression; but from every appearance they meant to beseige the Town in form. They have a very considerable Land force; indeed they have bent almost their whole strength against that State, and I am not without Apprehensions for the Event. They have shewn their policy in Attacking our weakest side; after despairing of Conquest in the more settled & populous States. With God's blessing they may yet meet with a second disappointment in their efforts against that remote & devoted State.

I shall write to you next week God willing from Philadelphia. In the mean time let me intreat you to make yourself as happy in my absense as possible—and to present my dutiful Regards to our Parents and my affectionate Compliments to every Branch of the Family; & to Kiss & Bless for me our dearest Children. I need not tell you how much & how sincerely I am—my dearest Polly, Your Affectionate & faithful Husband,

Jas. Duane

RC (NHi: Duane Papers).

¹ Not found, although a letter of April 15 from Duane to his wife written while he was enroute to Morristown is in the Duane Papers, NHi.

² That is, Robert R. Livingston.

Samuel Huntington to the States

Sir, Circular Philada April 20. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 15th Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that any State shall have Credit in their Account with the United States for such Clothing as they may furnish to the Officers of the Hospital, and medical Staff agreeable to the Act.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c &c, S.H.

LB (DNA; PCC, item 14).

¹ See *JCC*, 16:366-67.

Samuel Huntington to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Sir, Philada April 20. 1780

The Act of Congress of the 19th Instant herewith enclosed contains an Answer to your Letter addressed to the Board of Treasury of the 3d of August last, which will be a sufficient Direction for your Government in the Matters therein referred if not too late.¹

I am Sir &c &c, S.H.

LB (DNA; PCC, item 14).

¹ *JCC*, 16:377. For Wadsworth's original inquiry about paying for rations issued to frontier troops that were not distributed by Continental commissaries, see these *Letters*, 13:360.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia April 20. 1780

By various Accounts from the West Indies it seems to be beyond a Doubt that some twelve Ships of the Line, seven Frigates and a Number of Transports with Land Forces some Accounts say 10,000 from France are arrived at Martinique.

I have the honour to transmit your Excellency the Extract of a Letter enclosed which was intercepted by an American Cruizer to the Southward.

The Plan adopted by the Enemy as mentioned in the Extract when compared with their late Movements seems highly probable.¹

Your two Letters of the 17th were this Day received and laid before Congress.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellency's
humble servant. Sam. Huntington³

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ This "Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in London to a British Officer in Georgia dated London Jan'y 15, 1780," which is in the Washington Papers, DLC, explained that the current plan "for carrying on the War, is to take a certain Number of Posts in America in such a Way as to command the Trade of the Country."

² These letters are in PCC, item 152, 8:515-18, 527-30; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:269-74.

³ This day Huntington also sent the same intelligence contained in this letter concerning enemy plans and the arrival of French forces at Martinique to Connecticut governor Jonathan Trumbull. PCC, item 14, fol. 332.

Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare

Sir, Philada. 20th April 1780.

Inclosed you will have a Letter of advice which I recd. from the Commissary General, in consequence of what I had done to prevent Congress from passing Resolves derogatory to the State of New Hampr. ocasioned by the State Treasurers protesting some Draughts on him in favour of the Commissary's department—information of which Circumstance was Transmitted to Congress by your Honrs. Letter of the ——— last and also by Mr. Cyler's Complaint all which raised a very Considerable Storm,¹ but understanding that Considerable Stores were actually purchased in the Western parts of Your State was induced to Advise that Mr Cyler Transfer the aforsd Draffts to Majr. Jona. Child as the money was to pass through his hands hoping it might be in the power, as I was sure it was the inclination of the State to Answer the Draffts. I have only to add upon this Subject that if this Transaction should not be disagreeable to the State those drafts may be paid in preference to any of a later Date as Several Drafts are Since Sent on for payment. Mr. Livermore Can give you many particulars respecting the premises.

I have the Honr. to be with the most entire Sentiments of Esteem Your Hons. most obedt & very Hume Servt.

Nathl Peabody

P.S. I inclose also a Letter from the auditor Genl respecting an erroneous Charge vs. the State of N H.

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ Meshech Weare's March 7 letter to Jacob Cuyler, and Cuyler's March 23 letter to Philip Schuyler enclosing Weare's letter to him, were read in Congress on April 3 and referred to a committee of three—William Ellery, Allen Jones, and John Morin Scott.

Cuyler, deputy commissary general of purchases at Albany, had complained that New Hampshire had refused to honor \$600,000 in warrants issued to him by Congress against funds to be collected in the state for Continental use. Furthermore, Cuyler went on to explain, New York farmers would sell their grain only for cash and without it "all the troops in this state will be under necessity to leal their Posts."

In consequence of Weare's explanation that New Hampshire could not pay the drafts because the money had been spent "within our own State," the committee reported three resolutions of Congress that were sharply critical of New Hampshire and invoked the primacy of Continental over state authority. Declaring that such action by New Hampshire was "greatly injurious to . . . these United States," the committee (1) condemned the use of Continental funds for "any other use or uses. . . than shall be directed by Congress"; (2) requested the states to spend such funds only "on express resolution of Congress"; and (3) called on New Hampshire to replace "the said [misapplied] moneys" and to refrain from making similar applications in the future for Continental funds being raised in the state. The proposals were much too blunt for most delegates, however, and Peabody was able to prevent adoption of the committee's recommendations, which had been drafted by its chairman, New York delegate John Morin Scott. See *JCC*, 16:323, 328-29; and *PCC*, item 78, 5:459-63.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 21-22 1780]

21. Friday. I wrote to J. Batchelder Esqr. & to Mrs Holten (no. 115).¹ Congress adjourned to Monday.

22. Saturday. I rode out with the President of Congress, Genl Fulsom & the Secy.², a 11 miles to the Secys farm.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Holten's letter to his wife has not been found.

² That is, Charles Thomson.

Samuel Holten to Josiah Batchelder

My dear Sir.¹

Philadelphia Apl 21st 1780

Your last favor I have not *now* before me, having put it into the hands of the commercial come.² I gave the earliest attention to that part of it that respected the freight due to you from the continent & after advising with my Hone. Colleague Mr. Gerry, I moved in a formal manner to congress that the commercial come. be directed to enable Genl. Warren to pay the freight for the goods you was pleased to mention & also to Mr. Smith. Several of the come. being present in Congress, said they would take care to see it done without any special resolution which I recd. as satisfactory, & they assure me it shall be done; I take it there will be no difficulty in paying sterling money or currency equivalent; I have ownly to add that it gave me pleasure to have it in my power to serve you & hope it will be to your satisfaction.

My engagements are such that I can write you but a few lines upon our public affairs, which are truly distressing, the depreciation of our currency has not ownly deranged, & embarrassed the public

affairs, but almost put a total stop to all the movements of our armies. Is the Hone. assembly *really* sensible of our situation & their own danger (I fear not); men, money & provisions, are what is so much wanted, but the two last gives me the greatest concern, for without them, it will be impossible for the army to keep together; I can truly say I have met with nothing like it since the war, but don't (my worthy friend) think I despair of the common cause, no, not if the army disbands which some think will be the case? My fears are that we shall be reduced to still greater difficulties before the good people will be fully sensible of their danger & exert themselves accordingly; I leave it with you to judge how your Delegates in Congress must feel when in company with the Minister of France and other Gentlemen of Distinction from foreign nations, who sees our distress & knows to what state congress are reduced, and at the same time think that it is in the power of their constituents to releive them; you may think an apology necessary for some part of this tedious epistle, but be assured Sir I feel myself sensibly effected. I am, Sir, with great respect & esteem, your most obedet.

P.S. I think it must appear evident that if the important recommendations of Congress of the 18th ultimo are carryd. into effect immediately,³ it will soon put a new force upon our affairs.

Last evening I saw a news paper from Ireland as late as the 14th of Feby by which it appeared that Lord Norths late acts was far from being satisfactory to that people. Yours as before,

FC (PPIIn). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Josiah Batchelder, Jr. (1734-1809), Beverly, Mass., ship captain, was a member of the Massachusetts General Court, 1775-79. Edwin M. Stone, *A History of Beverly, Civil and Ecclesiastical From Its Settlement in 1630 to 1842* (Boston: James Munroe and Co., 1843), pp. 97-98.

² Not in PCC.

³ That is, Congress' resolutions on finance of March 18, 1780. *JCC*, 16:261-67.

James Lovell to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia April 21st. 1780
Upon the joint Opinion and Desire of my Colleagues I do myself the Honor to forward at this Time an Extract from one of General Washingtons last Letters interesting to the State of Massachusetts Bay in particular.¹

I am with much Respect, Sir, your very humble Servant,
James Lovell

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. President of the Council, Massachusetts Bay."

¹ Lovell inclosed an extract in his hand of General Washington's April 17 letter to President Huntington setting forth his reasons against another Penobscot expedition. See Samuel Huntington to Washington, April 9, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to Daniel Brodhead

Sir,

Philada, April 22. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 18th Instant directing that six blank Commissions be sent to you (which will be forwarded by the Board of War) to be filled up with the Names of such faithful Indians of the Delaware Tribe as you shall judge to be deserving of that Honour but no rank to be given any of them higher than Captain.¹

You will further observe by the Act enclosed, Copies of your Letter of the 27th of February (addressed to the Board of War) and the Papers therein referred to are sent to the Governor & Council of Virginia and Pennsylvania, and that Congress have resolved to support you in any Acts or Orders which the Nature of the Service and Discharge of your Duty as Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt hath made or shall make necessary.²

I am Sir &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA:PCC, item 14).

¹ *JCC*, 16:372-73.

² In his February 27 letter to the Board of War (which is in PCC, item 78, 3:441-44, and *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:119-20), Colonel Brodhead had explained that a suit had been filed against him in a Virginia court by two men he had evicted from a house near Fort Pitt while fortifying the site against an expected Indian attack. See also Huntington to Thomas Jefferson, April 23, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia 22 April 1780

Enclosed is an Act of Congress of the 21st Instant empowering your Excellency when properly applied to for that Purpose, to authorize an Agent or Commissary of Prisoners appointed by the Enemy to reside in these United States; and with Powers similar to those granted to a like Officer on behalf of the United States and allowed by the Enemy to be exercised within their Lines.¹

The Extract of a Letter from Genl. Lincoln contains the latest Intelligence I have received from Charles Town.² I have the honor to be, with great Respect, your Excellency's hbble servt,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 16:383-84.

² This extract from Benjamin Lincoln's March 24 letter to Congress, reporting the tightening encirclement of Charleston by British forces and his dim prospects for immediate reinforcements, is in the Washington Papers, DLC.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir, Philada April 23. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 18th Instant with Copies of sundry Papers therein referred to No. 1 & No. 2 by which you will be informed that a Suit at Law is said to be instituted in Yoghogania County against Colo Broadhead Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt, in Consequence of Orders given by him to some of the Troops under his Command to take Possession of a House occupied by Edward Ward & Thomas Smallman Esquires which he judged necessary for the Safety of that Post.¹

You will observe that by the Act enclosed Congress have resolved Colonel Broadhead shall be supported in any Acts or Orders which the Nature of the Service, and the Discharging his Duty as Commanding Officer at Fort Pitt hath made or shall make *necessary* with which I have no Doubt the supreme Power of Virginia will concur, and that proper Measures will be adopted to prevent Colo Broadhead his being unjustly vexed on Account of any Orders or Act by him given or performed, in the necessary Discharge of his Duty as Commanding Officer.

I have the honour to be &c.,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ *JCC*, 16:373. In addition to this April 18 resolve, Huntington's enclosures apparently consisted of a February 27 letter from Daniel Brodhead to the Board of War explaining the circumstances that had led Ward and Smallman to file suit against him in Virginia, and papers related to that suit which Brodhead had sent to the board. Huntington also sent these enclosures with a similar letter this day to Pennsylvania president Joseph Reed. PCC, item 14, fols. 335-36. For Brodhead's letter, see Huntington to Brodhead, April 22, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston

My Dear Sir Philadelphia April 23rd 1780

When you mentioned your Intention to return to our State as soon as Mrs. Livingston should be In a Condition to travel I made no opposition, but Since your departure hence the necessity of your Returning here has so forcibly Struck my mind that I should deem myself Inexcusable and failing in duty to my Country If I did not

urge you to lay aside Every thought of leaving us In the present Critical not to say extreemly distressing Conjunction. The Intelligence we yesterday receivd from South Carolina the particulars of which Mr Mathews will transmit You,¹ will Evince to you that we ought not to Entertain a Belief that Charles town is even now In our possession. The loss of that place perhaps of that whole state will superadd to the difficulties we already Abundantly experience; In such Conjunctions we have Occasion for the aid of Every man of Abilities In public life, we have Occasion for an uncommon Stock of Wisdon and Vertue and you that know how little of either pervades our directing Council must not quit the Stage and leave the political Ship to the danger of becoming a wreck thro the Incompetency of the pilots. I need not tell you that our affairs are running rapidly to Some violent Crisis, that the present disorders do not seem to admit of remedy In the ordinary Course of things, that a Convulsion now would Indefinitely prejudice our affairs both at home & abroad as It will evince a want of means or a want of Wisdom to apply them, and that either would bring our cause Into discredit, perhaps totally ruin²

Let me Intreat you to take a ride to Morris Town the soonest you possibly can.

I faithfully executed the Commission you charged me³

RC (NH: Robert R. Livingston Papers). In the hand of Philip Schuyler.

¹ See the following entry.

² MS torn; approximately seventeen lines missing.

³ MS torn; remainder missing.

John Mathews to Robert R. Livingston

My Dear sir,

Philadelphia April 24th. 1780

If it is in your power, I should be extremely happy you would meet us at Head Qrs. in the course of two or three days, that we might have an opportunity of conferring on some matters highly important to the Interests of these States.¹

If it will not be convenient to you to meet us at the above place, I must take the liberty of intreating your return to Congress, where the exertion of your abilities was never more necessary, than at this time. The loss of South Carolina (which we must every momet look for) will involve in it consequences, truely alarming to the Union. Their extensiveness a few moments reflection will suggest to you. You may suppose my apprehensions arise from local prejudices, & my spirits rather depressed from the loss of the Country to which I belong. Such a conjecture is natural enough, but permit me to Assure

you, I have seriously weighed the matter, & divested of every such consideration—Viewing it on a general scale I perceive extensive ill consequences to the whole much to be dreaded, resulting from this single misfortune.

Our currency, for a long time has struggled hard to support it's existence, & just now beginning to emerge, will I very much fear from this misfortune, again sink into it's former, & infinitely worse condition, nay, my apprehensions carry me yet further, for should what I suspect happen, I fear it's total annihilation. I mean the loss of No. Carolina. I see nothing to prevent it, & I believe our enemy have at last seen their true interests, & the conquest of the Southern States is now become their object, & a Settled plan formed to effect it. Many other things may be mentioned, that immediately affect ourselves. But good God! What effect the completion of this plan must have on our affairs in Europe. Your own enlarged Ideas, require not, the aid of my poor abilities to point out.

Our money sinking into ruin, our army in extreme distress, & inconsiderable in numbers, the enemy making rapid Strides in conquest, the people of these States all asleep &c.&c.&c. Can you at such a time find in your heart to leave us? For heavens sake, deprive us not of your assistance at such a time. Let me repeat my earnest request my worthy friend for your return to Congress, that your Country may reap the benefit of your abilities at this alarming crisis.

I have a thousand things to Say to you, which prudence forbids being committed to paper, but will reserve in hopes of seeing you at Camp.

If I have taken a freedom with you, which you may not think me entitled to, I must intreat your excuse, & hope you will impute it to that cause, that actuates us both—The ardent zeal we are impressed with for the welfare of our Country.

I am my Dr. sir, with the most sincere Esteem, yr. most Obedt. servt.

Jno. Mathews

RC (PHC: Roberts Collection).

¹ It is clear from Mathews' entreaty and Philip Schuyler's April 23 appeal that the Committee at Headquarters—Mathews, Schuyler, and Nathaniel Peabody—greatly valued Livingston's advice and influence. He had been a central figure in the move for army reform and had drafted the original instructions to the committee granting more extensive powers than were later conferred by Congress. See Mathews to Horatio Gates, March 14, 1780, note 2; and Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6–13, note 3. Livingston, who was in New Jersey at this time attending his wife in childbirth, acquiesced in the committee's request and met with them at Morristown in mid-May. For Washington's wish that Livingston himself had been made a member of the committee, see Committee at Headquarter's Memorandum, May 14, 1780, note 2. Livingston returned to Philadelphia upon news of impending aid from France to press for the committee's program. See Livingston to George Clinton, May 18, 1780.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[April 25–26, 1780]

25. Tuesday. I wrote to the Honl. Mr. White, to Mrs. Holten (no. 116).¹ Mr. Peabody Sit out for head quarters. I rode out with him 5 miles.

26. Wednesday. Fastday,² I attended public worship in the forenoon, Dr. Duffield preached from Lamen[tatio]ns I & 20. "Behold, O Lord, for I am in distress." Stormy weather.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Not found.

² For Congress' decision to set aside the last Wednesday in April "as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer" throughout the United States, see *JCC*, 16:252-53

Samuel Holten to Israel Hutchinson

My dear Sir.¹

Philadelphia Apl. 28th 1780

You have been so kind as to ask me several times when I expected to return, & I think I engaged to inform you. Last evening Colo Palfry arrived here from Boston & informed me I might expect Genl. Ward & Mr Adams here in a short time, if so I shall set out soon after they arrive; Therefore I think it is likely I shall be in Boston some time in June next.

I have given my constant attendance in congress from the time I first took my seat having not been absent one day except about a week I was confinded to my chamber by sickness. Some of my best friends have told me that unless I leave Congress & do less business with my head & exercise more they think I shall lay my bones in this City before another year, & I believe they judge prety right; But I am not Sure that I could return to private life & leave my distressed country in such a Situation & be content if I should be as well as I am now; However it lays with my friends at Court to Consider whether my past services justly intitles me to their further notice. I never intend to return to Congress.²

A few days since Congress agreed upon a circular letter to the States which (for want of time) I must refer you for my sentiments upon the state of public affairs.³

I inclose you the last news paper which contains the intelligence of the day.

I am, my worthy friend, with sincere respect, your most obedt.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Col. Israel Hutchinson (1728-1811) of Holten's hometown of Danvers, had been Lt. Col. of John Mansfield's Massachusetts Regiment at its formation, and was com-

mander of the unit when it was reorganized in 1776 as the 27th Continental Regiment, from which he retired at the end of the same year when it was again reorganized as the 13th Continental Regiment. See Heitman, *Historical Register*, pp. 31, 237; and Wright, *The Continental Army*, p. 207.

² Holten left Philadelphia on August 2 and was sworn in as a member of the Massachusetts Council on August 19, 1780. Holten Diary, MDaAr. However, he did return to Congress in 1783.

³ See Philip Schuyler to George Washington, April 5, 1780, note 7.

Samuel Holten to James Sullivan

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia Apl. 28th 1780.

I have been favored with yours of the 9th instant; & am sorry to hear the merchants are dissatisfied with the *important* resolutions of Congress of the 18th ultimo, which in my opinion so much under God depends, 'tho' it is no more than I expected for it is not likely that their first consideration was whither they will relieve their distressed Country, but how they will answer their own present purposes in way of trade.

I have the pleasure of corresponding with a number of Gentlemen in Court & out, but by their letters, they do not appear to be *fully* sensible of the distressed state to which our Country is reduced, owing to the depreciation of our currency for it has not only deranged & embarrassed the public affairs, but almost put a total stop to all our proceedings? Congress have lately agreed upon a circular letter to the several States which I suppose will come to hand before this, and they have mentioned some of the great difficulties they labour under, so far as was thought advisable, but it is far short (in my opinion) of our distressed & reduced situation; How far it is in the power of the states to relieve us I am not able to say, money, & provisions are the two principal things wanted for without them it will be impossible to keep the army together; By the resolutions mentioned above I think it must appear that if they were carryd. into effect it would immediately help Congress to a sufficient sum of money to carry us thro' this campaign, and I have no doubt there is provisions sufficient in the country if the States can collect them, but it is not in the power of Congress to do it, unless they should take such measures as would be very distressing to the Citizens near the armies. The daily demands upon Congress for money from every department is great, in addition to their numerous complaints, and 'tho' I thought myself well prepared for difficulties of this nature yet I must confess, I have met with nothing like it since the war commenced; But don't think (my worthy friend) I despair of the common cause, no, not if the army should disband, as I am frequently told will *soon* be the case.

I am, sir, with much esteem, your most obedient,

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

Samuel Huntington to Cyrus Griffin

Sir, Philadelphia May 1. 1780

I have the Pleasure and Satisfaction of presenting you with the enclosed Act of Congress & Commission by which you are appointed and constituted one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c, S.H.²

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ For the appointment of judges to the newly created Court of Appeals, see Huntington to Titus Hosmer et al., February 2, 1780; and *JCC*, 16:366, 397. For Griffin's acceptance of this appointment, conditional upon the approval of his Virginia constituents, see *JCC*, 16:441; and Griffin's letters to Huntington, May 4, and to Thomas Jefferson, June 9, 1780.

² This day Huntington also wrote a brief letter to William Denning notifying him of his appointment as a commissioner of the Board of Treasury. See *JCC*, 16:388, 397; and PCC, item 14, fol. 336.

James Searle to Nathanael Greene

Sir Philadelphia 1 May 1780

I beg leave to trouble you with the care of the inclosed letter which I beg the favour of you to have conveyed to Mr Pintard as soon as possible as it relates to our poor unhappy Fellow Citizens in Captivity. Mr. Pintard will probably be either at Head Quarters or at Mr. Boudinot's when this reaches you.¹

I am very respectfully, sir, your Obedt. humble Servant,
James Searle

RC (MiU-C: Greene Papers).

¹ The nature of this case, involving American prisoners in New York whose welfare was the concern of commissary of prisoners Lewis Pintard (brother-in-law of Elias Boudinot), is not known.

However, information on another prisoner case of concern to Searle at this time—that of Capt. James Willing, who was receiving supplies at New York through one Mary Carew—is printed in Burnett, *Letters*, 5:109–10n. This information is from a 1785 deposition by Searle supporting reimbursement for Carew, who in April and May 1780 submitted memorials to Congress that were referred to the Committee of Commerce of which Searle was a member. See *JCC*, 16:334, 17:423.

John Collins to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia May the 2d. 1780

I Received yours of the 29 yesterday morning—the atmosphere was Coverd. with mistey Clouds, and my apprehetion as Cloudy as the atmosphere and your Observation aded to the gloom allready taken great hold of my mind; your letter brings to mind what I Wrote you more than a year past, that ouer dan[ger] was intarnal.¹ I Saw many at the helm of the great Ship much adheard. to that talked by Rote as Parats Sings a tune, without knowing its meaning. Very ignorant of the great business necessary to keep the Ship a float—but let us not dispond all danger produce is not Emeadit death. I have Seen dangers and am Still in existance, I have been amongst Rocks and Sholes in tempestious weather, and have Seen my Ship Sink under me, and was not Drownd. (but I lost my Ship) the hull of this Ship in which we are imbarked is still Strong and good, but I exp[ect] for want of proper Shrowds and Stays, Will Carry a way her thirteen masts, but if She Should, we will Rig her anew, with fewer masts and move, Shrowds and Stays, I have no fear but She will weather the Storm, allthough she may Suffer in her Sails and Riging, the damage may be Repaired, when the Storm is over.

I have no more to Say you will understand me, I design to leave this City on, thursday or fryday next, if I am not prevented by the poverty of the treasury. My political Servitude ends this day, tomorrow I Shall be free from all political engagements to any Set of men living.²

I Shall take my Rout through Morris Town and Spend an hour in Camp.

I am With the most friendly Regard yours, John Collins

[P.S.] An Express arrived here Sunday last with Dispatches from General Lincoln, to the 9th of Apriel,³ the Substance of Which is that the Enemy Crossed Ashley River in force on the 29th of March and encamped about 3000 yards from our lines; Seven Ships of War passd Fort Moutrie the 8th of Aprel and Anchored near fort Johnston without any injury except the loss of an topmast, I Shall not be proticular as I Suppose, A Coppy of General Lincolns letter will be forwarded to the General.

J.C.

RC (MiU-C: Greene Papers).

¹ Not found; but for another letter between these correspondents on “intarnal” dangers and divisions, see these *Letters*, 13:585–86.

² Collins had been re-appointed a delegate by the Rhode Island Assembly for a one-year term beginning May 5, 1779, but he did not obtain leave of absence from Congress until May 10. Although he was reelected a delegate in 1780, he did not return to Congress until 1782. See *JCC*, 17:422; and Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 233, 285.

³ Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's April 9 letter to President Huntington was read in Congress on May 1 and is in PCC, item 158, fols. 369-72. *JCC*, 16:400.

Samuel Holten to Thomas Carnes

Sir.

Philadelphia May 2d. 1780.

Your letter by Doctr. Eustis was safely delivered me with the inclosures, I presented your petition to Congress, & I am sorry I have to inform you, that they have taken no order thereon; several Gentlemen gave it as their opinion that your application shou'd have been made to the state of Massachusetts; I moved to have it refered to the Council of said state, but it was tho't by some to be unnecessary, as you could be informed without a particular reference by congress; th[erefore] I think it is not likely that they will take any order respecting the same; I am sorry for your misfortune & that I have not been able to afford you any relief.¹

I am, your most obedient,

S. Holten

RC (MHi: John Warren Papers).

¹ Carnes had been a steward and quartermaster to the General Hospital at Cambridge, with the main army in New York in 1775-76, and for Dr. Thomas Tillotson, Physician and Surgeon General to the army in Rhode Island in 1778-79. He was seeking relief for having been "render'd useless" as a result of "extraordinary Exertion" in taking care of the sick and wounded at Rhode Island. His February 14, 1780, petition was read in Congress on April 28, but there is no evidence that it was ever acted upon. *JCC*, 16:397. Carnes' petition and testimonials on his behalf by Doctors Isaac Foster, Thomas Tillotson, and John Warren are in PCC, item 42, 2:62-70. The location of this letter in a collection of John Warren papers suggests that Carnes may have taken Holten's hint and subsequently sought Dr. Warren's aid in submitting his case to the state of Massachusetts.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

Madam

May 2d, 1780

I find neither an Endorsemt. on yr. Favour of March 1st¹ recd. the 27th nor a Memorandum in my Almanac to prove my having answered it; I suspect therefore that I only acknowledged the Receipt through Mr. SA to you when I as usual sent in that Chanel the Gazettes to Braintree. Perhaps these Kinds of Negligence may operate favorably for me in the Opinion of some People. I shall be marked down in their Books as one of no Gallantry. I did not however omit to pursue what related to serious Business in that Letter though I am not at this moment conveniently situated to give you the Result of my doings from the Journals.² I will do that by Express.

Your Favour of April 3d³ came to hand the 27th. I did not ask for

a Copy of what I wanted from you. I desired to act for you as a Priest of Vulcan the God of Fire.

Carolina is yet safe in its Capitol And our Friends there are in good Spirits. I wish Appearances were not so much against them as they are on the Water-Side.

As to the Exchange I am told by a Letter of April 22d from Boston that 66 & 70 had been offered. It has fallen here from 62 to 55 and must inevitably, I think settle near 40. Boston will shortly be as Philadelphia without Paper Money.

You see my Haste. I must quit the Pleasure of taking up other Ideas in your Letters, upon a Call to publik Duty at the State House, where, however, I can be more minute as to what I have before touched respecting the accounts of Mr. A. Your humbled Servant,

J L

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ Not found.

² Lovell is apparently referring to Congress' refusal on April 16 to pay for John Quincy Adams' education in France, but to allow "the charge for books" in John Adams' accounts. See *JCC*, 16:368–69; and Lovell to John Adams, May 4, 1780.

³ Not found.

Rhode Island Delegates to William Greene

Sir: Philadelphia, May 2, 1780.

Nothing new in the Congressional line hath taken place since our last, but what will have reached your Excellency's hands before this. The frigate *Confederacy* arrived here last Saturday, from Martinico, and confirms the account of the arrival there of sixteen sail of the line, with a considerable body of troops, so that now the French have a decided superiority in the West Indies.

An express arrived here last evening with despatches from Gen. Lincoln, to the 9th of April, the substance of which is, that the enemy crossed the Ashley river in force, near the ferry, on the 29th ult., and encamped about three thousand yards from our line. They have erected works in front and on the left, and on Cooper's river, and were opening lines of communication. What they have done seems rather calculated to cover their approaches than to annoy. Seven ships of war passed Fort Moultrie on the 8th, and anchored near where Fort Johnston stood, without any apparent injury. Our people were employed in throwing obstructions in the passage up Cooper's river, thereby to preserve a communication with the country, from which they might draw succors and supplies, and meant to throw up works in proper places, the more effectually to secure that communication. General Woodford, with about seven or eight hundred

of the Virginia line, arrived the 7th, and the North Carolina men were coming in. The remainder of Gen. Scott's troops, and some militia men from North Carolina, were soon expected.

We do not pretend to form a judgment of the results. The events of war are uncertain, and your Excellency can make up as good a one as we are able to do. Hoping every thing will eventually turn out well, we are with great respect,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

William Ellery,

John Collins.

P. S. Mr. Ellery has received your Excellency's letters respecting the Pigot Galley, and will lay the same before the Admiralty Board.¹

MS not found; reprinted from Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 281–82.

¹ In an April 17 letter to William Ellery, a member of the Board of Admiralty, Governor Greene had requested a replacement for the *Pigot*—to “scour the coast of small armed vessels.” Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 279.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[May 3–4, 1780]

3. Wednesday. I recd. a letter from Mr. Peabody.¹ The medical committee met in my chamber. No news.

4. Thursday. I had a letter from Mr. Palmer & Mssrs Mathews & Peabody.²

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Not found.

² John Mathews' and Nathaniel Peabody's brief May 2 letter to Holten thanking him for the use of his servant, Jeremiah Sheldon, is in the Holten Papers, DLC.

Robert R. Livingston to the Marquis de Barbé-Marbois

Dear Sir

[May 3, 1780]

Having just closed some Letters of business I cannot resist the temptation of forwarding by the same conveyance one of pleasure for such I think I may justly stile that which enable me to repeat the sentiments of esteem that I entertain for you & which flatter me with the hopes of learning in return your Welfare & that of the Minister to whom I wish you to make my comps. & acknowledgements, not only for these civilities for which I feel myself indebted to him—but for the peculiar marks of confidence with which he honoured me. I

condole with you on the death of Mr. Muralles¹ at which I am sensibly affected Both on his own account & the particular situation of our affairs. I hope that you have recd. some further light on the subject of his proposals & that Mr. Francisco² will be authorized to carry them into execution if they shd be publick in their nature. They never could be offered more seasonably than at present.

I have already recd. Letters from Genl Schuyler & Mr. Matthews which break in greatly upon my plans of domestick tranquility, they intreat to go down to Philadelphia or at least to meet them at camp in order to hear their reasons more at large for this request & this last I shall do as soon as I can possibly leave Mrs. Livingston.³ And from thence if you give me any encouragement I may again be induced to trouble you. In the mean time I can only request you to remind my friends with you of the esteem I bear them And to be persuaded that that which I profess for you is proffered with the utmost sincerity. I am, Dr. Sir &c

FC (NH: Robert R. Livingston Papers). In the hand of Robert R. Livingston, and endorsed by him: "Dt. of Letter to Mr. Marebois—3d May 1780."

¹ Don Juan de Miralles, unofficial Spanish agent to the United States, died on April 28 of "a violent biliary Complaint" while visiting Washington's headquarters at Morristown with the chevalier de La Luzerne. For Washington's report on Miralles' death to the Governor of Cuba, Diego José Navarro, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:316–17. A long discussion of Miralles' illness, death, and burial, written by his secretary, Francisco Rendón, to Navarro on May 5, is in *Procedentes de Cuba*, Legajo 1281, Archivo General de Indias, Seville.

² Francisco Rendón, Miralles' secretary and successor, served as the Spanish agent in Philadelphia following Miralles' death until 1785, when he became secretary to the newly appointed Spanish minister to the United States, Don Diego de Gardoqui. Hermonio Portell-Vilà, *Los "Otros Extranjeros" en La Revolución Norteamericana* (Miami, Fla.: Ediciones Universal, 1978), pp. 92–100.

³ For the attempts of John Mathews and Philip Schuyler to convince Livingston that he should return to Congress, see Schuyler to Livingston, April 23, and Mathews to Livingston, April 24, 1780. Livingston, who was in New Jersey to be with his wife (the daughter of John Stevens) during the birth of their child, was wrestling with himself over attending to his duties as a delegate and had voiced concern over the crisis of public affairs in a letter to James Duane written from "Valley Lebanon" the previous day. "By this time," he observed regarding Duane's recent return to Congress, "I may condole with you on the new scenes of trouble and anxiety which have opened upon you—these were sufficient to try the fortitude of any man before I left them, and, if I may judge from Letters which I have received from Schuyler, & Matthews they have not diminished since. God send you that spirit of firmness & decision, which becomes every hour more necessary. I am greatly mistaken if daily experience will not teach you that the bond which ties us together is too weak for the exertion that our circumstances require, and that the confederation even if agreed to, would only prove a nominal union. Greater powers must lodge some where, or our efforts will continue to be what they have hitherto been, weak & disjointed, & as the respect for a powerless body will every day diminish, the evil will every day encrease till the voice of the people shall vest elsewhere what Congress are unwilling to trust themselves with. Or some daring genius with necessity for his plea, shall seize what they dare not give. This language would surprize you if you did Evidently discover from the ground on which you are now placed the inefficacy of resolutions, & the

inequality of the burthens that are born by the respective states." Duane Papers, NHi. Whatever his personal inclinations, Livingston soon left his family to confer with Mathews and Schuyler at Washington's headquarters and was back in Congress by May 16. See Schuyler to George Clinton, May 15, 1780; and JCC, 17:432.

James Duane to George Washington

My dear General

Philadelphia 4th May 1780

We are here in anxious Suspence for the Fate of Charles Town: it is not to be wondered at when we consider the greatness of the Stake, and the Uncertainty and Importance of the Event. The Governour, Council and Magistracy have shut themselves up in the Town determined to share the Glory of preserving it, or to perish in the Attempt! We understand that this Resolution was submitted to with Reluctance by the principal Officers of the Army, and in my Opinion it is rather a display of Heroism then of deliberate Policy. The Influence of Government would have been well employed, as far as we can Judge at so remote a distance, in preparing against a Disaster and drawing the Internal Strength of the Country to some point for it's Defence. On the present plan the Loss of the whole State seems to be hazarded with the Capital. We learn from a Mr Cannon who left the neighbourhood of Charles Town on the 12th and parted with General Lincoln on the 9th, that the Garrison and Inhabitants were greatly elated on the Arrival of the Virginia Line; and in full expectation of Success: and it is his opinion that if the Maryland Line were near the Scene of Action Sir Henry Clinton would be glad to raise the Siege. We have endeavoured to learn from Him the Sentiments of General Lincoln on the Fate of the Town: but it appears that he is as reserved in his Conversation as his Letters 'tho his Activity & Vigour inspire the highest Respect and Confidence. These Circumstances do not appear in any Correspondence and I conclude tho' they are not very material you will not think them too trivial to be communicated.

We are exerting every Means in our power to expedite the March of the Reinforcement destined for Charles Town. It is committed to the Joint Efforts of the Board of War and the Treasury and I hope every Obstacle is surmounted. I have but one wish left, that Virginia may on so decisive and interesting an Occasion be able to detach a Body of Militia which in Conjunction with the Continental Reinforcements will be sufficient to support the Communication between the Town and Country and harrass the Besiegers in their Rear. The Reluctance against the Southern Service, tho' easy to be accounted for, is much to be deplored; and I reconcile myself to the Embarrassments which our Weakness in that Quarter Superadds to all our other Difficulties.

In spite of the disagreeable Aspect of our money Affairs I look forward to a happy Termination of our arduous Conflict. We have not experienced half the distresses which considering the power of our Enemies, every contemplative Mind must have expected. I am in this View much engaged in another Attempt to get the Confederation accomplished which in my Opinion woud fully compensate for the temporary Loss of any City on the Continent: & it gives me great pleasure to assure your Excellency that the Delegates from Virginia are warmly disposed to give it all the Aid in their power: & I indeed have the fullest Expectation that our Joint Exertions will Succeed: and the future Safety and Tranquillity of the States be fixed on a permanent Basis. Without a Fœderal Alliance peace itself, Independance, and Security from external Assaults, would scarcely deserve the Name of a Blessing. The flame of disaffection to the British Administration has at length reached the Bosom of our Enemies. Remonstrances and Committees, always terrible to an Arbitrary Government, cannot fail of producing Embarrasment in publick Councils, or of enfeebling the National Exertions. We have a Right to hope that they will be attended with Serious Consequences, and put an End to their Operations against these States. If Brittain unsupported by Friends or Allies, and rent asunder by domestic Jars and discontents, can continue an unjust and unpopular War against the Joint Efforts of America, France and Spain, she will exhibit an Example of Obstinacy and of Vigour unparalleled in History.

To hold a place in your Excellency's Confidence & Friendship is an Honour which I most highly prize; & which I shall always regard as one of the most happy Circumstances of my Life: for no Man can be more entirely Attached to you by every Tie of Affection, Esteem & Gratitude than my dear General, Your most Obedient & most faithful Servant,

Jas. Duane

P.S. Be pleased to present my most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Washington & the Gentlemen of the Family. We have this moment Letters informing us that Connecticut & the Massachusetts Legislatures have chearfully adopted the new plan of Finance.¹ The Connecticut Leaders have done themselves great Honour as well as the principal Farmers. The former in an Address to the Assembly declare their Readiness to receive the new Money at its Value specified by Congress in payment for their Commodities. New York I am perswaded will Concur & their Example will probably bring All the States into the Measure.

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ To which "letters" Duane is referring is not known, but official word of these states' actions was not received by Congress until later. The Connecticut Assembly's response to "the act of Congress of 18 March last" was received on May 11, and a

similar act of the Massachusetts General Court was laid before Congress by the Massachusetts delegates on May 29. See *JCC*, 17:422-23, 471.

Cyrus Griffin to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Philadelphia May 4th. 1780

The appointment of Congress to the Court of appeals does me great honor.¹ I thank them exceedingly for the confidence they repose in my Integrity and abilities, but as the nomination was unsolicited and even unknown to me, and being delegated by the state of Virginia to a very different employment I do not think myself justifiable in a peremptory acceptance of the office without the approbation of my constituents. In the mean time, the state of Virginia being so ably and fully represented without my attendance, if Congress shall think proper I will undertake the business of a Judge and endeavor to pay that attention which so important and distinguished a commission may require.

I thank you, Sir, for the very polite manner in which the act of Congress has been communicated to me, and as I always profess the utmost affection for the dignified and extensive body over which you preside so believe me to be with the highest personal esteem and regard your excellency's most obedient and very humble servant,

C. Griffin²

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78).

¹ See Huntington to Griffin, May 1, 1780.

² Griffin's letter was read in Congress this day. See *JCC*, 16:411. He cast his final vote in Congress on June 13, the same day that he wrote his "last letter" to Gov. Thomas Jefferson "in my official capacity," for which see *ibid.*, 17:507; and Griffin to Jefferson, June 13, 1780.

James Lovell to John Adams

Dear Sir

May 4 1780

The Bearer Mr. Mease is Brother to the late Cloathier General¹ and is intimately connected with an Irish Gentleman here for whom I have great Regard as a zealous Republican & Friend to America. It is more on account of that Connection with my Friend than of any personal Acquaintance that I have been led to introduce Mr. Mease to your Civilities. His Care of sundry Pacquets for you would indeed alone have been sufficient to merit your Attention. I chiefly rely on Them and his Conversation to what ought to be the Task of the Committee of foreign affairs if that Comtee was not a mere Shadow without a Quorum, a Secretary or Clerk. I send regularly

to Mrs. Adams the News Papers & Journals for you that she may not be without some Information of that kind herself during your Absence. She sends them to the Navy Board, doubtless with the addition of Something still more agreeable to you individually considered.

This Testimony of my affectionate Remembrance of You will reach your Hand at all Events as I mean it to be useful to Mr. Mease whatever may be his Lot as to a safe Passage. If you receive any Thing from me in Cyphers it will be upon the same Mode as that which I have communicated to Doctr. Franklin and which will serve great numbers with equal safety. It is the Alphabet squared as on the other Side and the key Letters are the two first of the Surname of the Family where you and I spent the Evening together before we set out from your House on our Way to Baltimore.²

Your affectionate humble Servant, James Lovell

[P.S.] All your Letters from Spain came safely. Give my Love to your Family, to Mr Dana in particular & tell him I imagine *all* his came safely too though no Body at Philada. knows anything about them.³

Make use of any of the perpendicular columns according to yr. key letters. You may reply to me by the use of any new ones. For Instance you may refer to the 2, 3, 4 &c. Letters of a Word 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, &c in a Paragraph of any one of your Letters of such on such a date known to have been recd. by me, or you may say "reverse the Letters you have chosen" or "add one more to those you have used," or by any such like Direction you may give me the Key of your Answer.

I will give you a Specimen as follows. You submitted yr. accounts with a Confession of yr. arithmetical Antipathies in that particular Line, and yr. Supposition of Errors. The Chamber of Accounts reported specially, not being in Capacity to judge of the Propriety of the Charges. Their Report was committed and the Result was from Mr. Forbes, Mr. Mathews, & Mr. Houston such as I imagine you yourself would have determined, on a like Committmt. to you.⁴

"That they do not find any Vote or Proceeding of Congress, nor are they informed of any general or received Custom on which the Charge of Monies for the {education of the son}⁵ of the Accomptant can be admitted; and though the same is inconsiderable, they are of opinion it ought to be rejected, that a precedent be not established.

"That they are of opinion the Charge {for books} ought to be admitted on the ground of a practice wch. has obtained in different Nations respecting their public ministers & wch. is mentioned by Mr. Adams in the Explanations attending his Vouchers.

"That they find the several Charges in the sd. accts. conformable to the strictest principles of Oeconomy and that, as far as Mr. Adams has been intrusted with public money the same has been carefully & frugally expended."

Congress agreed to the sd. Report.

Bal. due, 2511.12.6.⁶

You ought to use Cyphers in yr. letters but you should communicate yr. Key to Mr. Thompson to serve in my absence.

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ Lovell is referring to former Clothier General James Mease and his brother Robert.

² That is, the family of Richard Cranch, who had married Abigail Adams' sister Mary. For an explanation of this cipher, see these *Letters*, 7:291–92.

³ At this point Lovell laid out the form of the cipher he had been using in his correspondence with Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

⁴ For the December 15, 1779, committee report that Congress adopted on April 15, 1780, and from which Lovell quoted the following three paragraphs, see *JCC*, 15:1383, 16:368–69.

⁵ Words printed in braces in this text were written by Lovell in cipher.

⁶ That is, the balance due Adams after deducting 1,861 livres 1 sou claimed for "Schooling his son [John Quincy Adams]" was 2511 livres 12 sous 6 deniers. See Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:346n.7.

James Lovell to Benjamin Franklin

Hond. Sir,

May 4th 1780

I cannot write with official Authority nor have I time to enlarge more upon our public Affairs owing to the particular Circumstances of the Mass. Delegation which forced me to attend in Congress and the Vessel will probably sail before our Adjournment this Afternoon. I refer you to the Journals & Gazettes together with Mr. Robert Mease's Conversation. It is not necessary that I should recommend this Gentleman to your Civilities. Your Knowledge of his Family and his present Care to forward Pacquets to you, both secure for him your Attentions.

We have had no Letter from you since one of Sepr. 30th read Feb. 23d¹ nor have we at any Time recd. a Copy of the Instrument annulling the 11th & 12th articles the publication of which Articles in our Newspapers make some public Proceedg. here necessary in regard to the Annulment it was some time in Novr.—78 as appears by the Copies of some Letters delivered by Mr. Adams the originals of which did not come to hand.

Our Affairs at the Southward are to be judged of by the Gazettes. We {may not boast}.² We have a very good Prospect that the late War between {the merchant & farmer} is the last that will spring up between those Tribes. They have convinced each other, by every Skirmish that they ought to be in perpetual Amity on the Ground of reciprocal Benefits.

I do not feel easy till I have my Pacquets on Board. If I have Time I will again write to you by the same opportunity more largely.

Be assured of my greatest Respect for your Character and my sincerest Wishes for your Prosperity being, Sir, Your Friend and most humble Servant,

James Lovell

RC (PPAmP: Franklin Papers).

¹ Lovell was mistaken. Franklin's October 4, 1779, letter had been read in Congress on March 4. See *JCC*, 16:226.

² Words printed in braces in this text were written by Lovell in cipher, but to judge from the notes on the verso of Lovell's letter, Franklin was unable to decipher Lovell's garbled encoded phrases, including the passage in braces in the following sentence. Both of these passages have been deciphered by a modern student of ciphers of the American revolutionary era, however, and are supplied from Ralph E. Weber, *United States Diplomatic Codes and Ciphers, 1775-1938* (Chicago: Precedent Publishing Inc., 1979), p. 32. For the cipher Lovell employed here, see also Committee for Foreign Affairs to Franklin, February 24, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene

Sir, In committee of Congress, Morris town 5th May 1780.

Your favour of the 3d instant,¹ has been received and claimed our serious attention. (See page 222).²

It is the wish as well as the inclination of this committee to give you every satisfaction, as far as their power extends; But to undertake an investigation into the state and conduct of your department at this moment, the business being of so diffuse and complex a nature, we conceive would be highly inconsistent with the public welfare, as the consequent delay attending such an enquiry would evidently tend to defeat the great object we have primarily in view; the immediate supply of the Army.

We feel great Anxiety, Sir, at your seeming determination, not to enter into business with us, until such enquiry shall have been previously made. We cannot however but flatter ourselves, that on mature reflection, taking in view the great object by us alluded to, on the immediate execution of which you well know so much depends, you will wave the application, and with that zeal and alacrity, which have hitherto distinguished you, in the service of your country, afford that aid which your abilities and experience enable you so effectually to give, and which we had in charge from Congress to require of you.³

We are, Sir, with much esteem & regard, Your most obedient servants,

Philip Schuyler

John Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ In his letter of May 3, Greene responded to the committee's request for his opinion of the best method for accommodating the quartermaster department "to the new plan for obtaining supplies for the army." Greene declared, however, that he would not venture an opinion unless the committee could first establish that his department "has been conducted with as much œconomy and order as the nature of the business, and the demands of the service would admit." Previous inquiries, he complained, had been "the offspring of private spleen, or public prejudice" and he did not "choose to stem the Current of prejudices any longer; or continue in an employment, which is so ungrateful to my feelings." PCC, item 155, 1:244-46.

² The committee's record book (PCC, item 11), compiled by secretary Abraham Brasher and his assistant, Benjamin Brown, is paged consecutively and contains the proceedings and copies of letters to and from the committee from April 6 to November 1, 1780. Hereafter, page numbers that Brasher included as cross references in the letterbook will not be included in the texts of these *Letters*. Original drafts, copies, and transcripts of letters and papers of this committee are in PCC, item 39.

³ In his May 6 reply Greene expressed astonishment that the committee would attempt to execute its commission without a thorough inquiry into the order and arrangement of the quartermaster department. "On what grounds can they make any alterations or confirm any part of the present plan, without such an investigation?" he asked. While he did not expect them to examine departmental functions in detail, Greene felt "the Committee should satisfy themselves with respect to the great outlines of the business, and the general conduct of the principal agents." He would remain in office only if "every shadow of imputation which may effect my character or standing with Congress" was removed. Moreover, he would not serve "under the direction of any other superintending board, than that of the Board of War, unless they belong to Congress," nor could he expect others to serve when they "have been treated more like Galley-Slaves, and public pick-pockets, than faithful Agents!" PCC, item 155, 1:248-50.

James Duane to William Livingston

Dear Sir

Philad 5t May 1780

I was honoured with your Excellency's favour of the 19th of April by my Cousin John,¹ and had an opportunity of recommending him to the attention of Mr Maddison² one of the Board of Admiralty & shall not fail to give him every necessary support which his Circumstances & prospects require. I need not assure you that it will give me real pleasure to answer your fullest Expectations on this Occasion & to do you & your's every Act of Kindness which shall be in my power. Did not our *Relations*, a long Friendship & Social Intercourse woud demand it.

The young Gentleman will inform you of his Reasons for not undertaking the Voyage you expected. Considering the Danger of Capture in a defenceless Vessell, I cannot regard his disappointment as any misfortune. If the noble, disinterested & persevering part which you have taken in the present Contest does not entitle your Children to the Notice of the publick, I shall be exceedingly mortified!

With respectful Compliments to Mrs. Livingston & the Family at

Parcipine;³ I beg you will believe me to be with every Sentiment of Respect and Esteem and personal Attachment, Dear Sir, Your Excellency's most Affectionate & Obedient Servt, Jas. Duane

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Undoubtedly John L. Livingston (1762-81), William's youngest son. Later in 1780 he was appointed a midshipman in the Continental Navy, and while serving on the *Saratoga* was lost at sea on March 18, 1781. Livingston, *Papers* (Prince), 1:396. William Livingston was the uncle of Duane's wife, Mary Livingston Duane.

² Duane inserted an asterisk at this point, to which he keyed the phrase "A Delegate from Virginia" at the foot of the page.

³That is, Parsippany, N.J.

William Ellery and James Madison to the Committee at Headquarters

In Congress, May 5th, 1780.

Ye poor devils! shivering on the bleak hills of Morris, how we pity you!—Ho! soldier with your canteen;—view that poor committee man—see him trembling. Hark!—hear his teeth chatter—unable to support himself under the chilling blasts, which, unclothed and unfed, you have endured with invincible perseverance and fortitude:—see him expiring!—he was nursed under a fervid sun, and exposes himself to your nipping gales to bring you some relief. For the sake of G—d, one drop of whiskey for poor Matthews!

As for ye sons of the North,¹ ye can get along well enough, especially, if ye can find, now and then, a cup of beer and a little New England.²

As for our illustrious general, if it were in our choice, for him the rich Maderia should flow in copious streams;—and as for the gallant officers, and faithful brave soldiers under his command, if we had the powers of conversion, we would turn water into wine, the camp should overflow with that exhilarating and invigorating liquor.

The last bottle had been broached. We addressed congress,³ and used every argument in our power to induce them to order a couple of pipes to be sent to head-quarters, and told them that the general's wine was entirely exhausted. They doubted. We informed them that we had received a letter from the committee giving us that information.⁴ They still doubted, and desired that the letter might be produced. We delivered it with the utmost reluctance. Upon reading it, congress immediately concluded that any persons who would dare to charge us with niggardliness, and threaten to run congress 'd——ly' in debt must be d——ly drunk, and utterly refused to send any wine to head-quarters until you should have returned. We wish you had been more guarded in your expressions. However, we shall

for once stretch our power, and send forward two pipes immediately.⁵ You will be pleased to consider soberly the business you have undertaken, and the expectations of congress, and not drink more than three glasses of wine at dinner, and six at supper; and whenever you write to us, do it before breakfast.

We return your 'word to the wise,' and are your's as you conduct.

W. Ellery,

Js. Madison, Jr.

MS not found; reprinted from John Sanderson, *Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence*, 9 vols. (Philadelphia: R.W. Pomeroy, 1820-27), 9:272-73.

¹ That is, committee members Nathaniel Peabody of New Hampshire and Philip Schuyler of New York.

² That is, rum.

³ The journals contain no information on this action.

⁴ Not found.

⁵ On the following day the Board of Admiralty, "being directed by Congress," ordered "two Pipes of the best Madeira Wine" sent to General Washington. See Francis Lewis to Washington, May 6, 1780, Washington Papers, DLC. Ellery and Madison were the congressional members of the Board of Admiralty. This playful letter was undoubtedly the work of Ellery, a man who often yielded to whimsey and satire.

Elbridge Gerry to John Adams

My dear sir,

Philadelphia 5th May 1780

It gave me great Pleasure to learn by your Letter of the 11th Decr. that You had safely arrived, and had met with so agreeable a Reception in Spain:¹ & I hope soon to have the Satisfaction of hearing from You at Paris.

Mr Lovell informs me that he shall transmit You the Journals of Congress & News Papers² by the latter of which You will perceive that the Enemy have invested Charlestown, & that it is defended by General Lincoln with about four or five thousand Men, the greatest part whereof are continental Troops. General De Kalb with the whole of the Maryland Corps, consisting as I am informed of between two & three thousand Men, is ordered to Charlestown from the main Army, & has by this Time probably crossed the Cheesapeak: Reinforcements of Militia are also on the March from Virginia & North Carolina, all of which should Charlestown hold out about a Month or five Weeks must I think make a formidable Army, in the rear of the Enemy. The Garrison by the best Accounts are supplied with five or six Months provision, & have a sufficiency of military Stores; & altho the General in his publick Letters is exceedingly modest & confines himself to States of Facts, yet in one of his private confidential Letters he expresses his Hopes & Expectations of being able

to defend the City, or of making the Acquisition expensive to the Enemy.

The Resolutions of Congress for calling in & canceling the two hundred Millions of Dollars emitted by them, have in general been well received.³ The Depreciation is stopt, & Specie, which before the passing of the Resolves was sold for upwards of 70 for 1, is now current at 60 & has been lately at 55. The Advantage of this *Plan* will be great to the Land holders, inasmuch as the national Debt including Certificates & foreign Demands does not now much exceed five Million sterling, which is but a trifling Sum compared with the two hundred Millions sterling due from G Britain. Another Benefit resulting from *it*, is a Supply of five Million Dollars of the new Emission, every Dollar of which is equal to 40 Dollars of the old Emissions; indeed this must be called in before that can be realized, nevertheless, there is a greater Demand amongst all Ranks for continental Money, than there has been since the Commencement of the War, & Specie is no longer hoarded by the disaffected or timid. So much for the Value & Stability of the Medium. With Respect to our Resources Congress are at present much in Want of Money, & it is a happy Circumstance; for, their Œconomy is in proportion to their Wants. The Demands on the Treasury are generally answered by Warrants on the several States which are careful by some Means or other to discharge the Draughts. The Taxes are indeed very heavy, but the Collection goes on, & I doubt not that the Army will be well fed & paid. Military Stores & Cloathing must however be procured on Credit in Europe, as well as a considerable Loan to serve as a Fund for drawing in Case of Necessity. Since the Treasury, Admiralty, & Court of Appeals have been put in Commission, Congress have not been troubled much with their respective Concerns, & for several Days past have adjourned before the usual Time from a *Want of Business*.

Trade & privateering are brisk, & there is a plenty of Goods of every Kind (excepting military), but *no Money to purchase them*. This is easily accounted for, since the whole Sum in Circulation as Congress have fixed it, is only five Million Dollars, & these are not one third of what are necessary for a Medium for the several States. Our privateers & Commerce have nevertheless lately suffered much by the Cruisers of the Enemy, who have the Command of the Coast. It is much to be wished that the Court of France would order a squadron superior to the Enemy to be stationed in some part of the united States, as the best & only Means of putting a speedy End to the War. It is almost impossible to conceive the Havock that our privateers made of the Enemy's Cruisers & Transports during the Time that the Count D'Estaing was at Rhode Island & Charlestown, but our Losses *at present* nearly equal our Captures. Indeed that worthy Officer aware of those & other advantages ordered the Count de Gras

to be stationed at the Cheesapeak, but his plan was defeated by the Tempestuousness of the Weather. Had the latter arrived with his Squadron, Charlestown could not have been besieged & three or four of our Frigates which are now in Ashley River & will probably be destroyed, would have been employed in intercepting the Enemy's Transports.

We have had a very severe Winter & backward Spring, but the prospects are not unfavorable.

I had forgot to mention a Resolution of Congress to pay off the Continental Certificates according to the Value of Money at the Time of their being respectively issued. This is but Justice, & will undoubtedly be satisfactory to Foreigners.

Bills of Exchange are now at 45 for one, & will be higher, in Consequence of the great Risque of sending Vessels from the eastern States to the southern for produce.

I have had the pleasure of a Line from Portia,⁴ whose Sentiments are sufficient proof of a *Mens sana in Corpore sano*.⁵ Poor Don Juan de Merailles lately died at Camp, on a Visit with the Minister of France to General Washington. I have many Things more to say to You but the Vessel is to sail immediately & I have scarcely Time to send my sincere Regards to brother Dana or to assure You that I remain sir with every Sentiment of Esteem & Respect Your affectionate Friend,

E Gerry

[P.S.] Mr Lovell will give You the necessary Information respecting your Accounts.⁶ Recruiting goes on, & it will be less difficult to find Men than to pay & subsist them.

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ Adams' December 11, 1779, letter to President Huntington, written from Ferrol, Spain, had been read in Congress on March 27. *JCC*, 16:288.

² See James Lovell to Adams, May 4, 1780.

³ Adams, who was keeping the French abreast of fiscal developments in the United States, immediately made use of Gerry's explanation of Congress' March 18 resolutions by enclosing an extract from it with his June 20, 1780, letter to the comte de Vergennes. See Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:786, 805-7.

⁴ See Gerry to Abigail Adams, April 17, 1780.

⁵ Juvenal *Satires* 10.356.

⁶ See Lovell to Adams, May 4, 1780.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[May 5-6, 1780]

May 5. 1780. Friday. I wrote to Mr. Palmer, to Mr. Kettell, & to Mrs. Holten (no. 119).¹ I rode to Germantown with Mr. Gates. No news.

6. Saturday. I rode out, & then dined with the minister.² Three men were hang'd here this day.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Only Holten's letter to Joseph Palmer has been found.

² That is, the chevalier de La Luzerne, with whom Holten dined a number of times during his term at Congress.

Samuel Holten to Joseph Palmer

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia May 5th 1780.

Four days since I was favored with yours of the 10th ulto. & thank you for the information therein given.

To answer your letter fully wou'd be to commit to paper that which I dare not by any means do, & therefore I desire you to consider me as writing under restraint, 'tho with an inclination to write freely.

I consider it as unnecessary to mention to you under what disadvantages we engaged in this war with one of the greatest powers on earth, they can't but still remain upon a mind like yours? While Congress emitted bills & the good people tho't they were growing rich, there was no great complaints (ownly of the enemies cruelty), but notwithstanding all the endeavours of congress they depreciated to such a degree & still increasing, that the good people (in these parts) were more alarmed than by the late resolutions you are pleased to mention, & what added to the difficulty was, they tho't it was in a great measure owing to Congress's continuing to make paper bills; & therefore petitioned in great numbers to stop the press & tell them what to do & they wou'd exert themselves to the utmost to support the common cause; Notwithstanding, Congress was aware of the difficulties attending the stoping the press as well as the dangr. of keeping it open, and of two great difficulties they chose that which they tho't the least, & I believe have never repented it; However they took care not to stop it 'till they were able to finish the last campaign; which they had reason to hope wou'd be the last and upon stoping the press they informed their constituents how long they cou'd go on without taxes being paid in, & let them know what they tho't wou'd be the consequences if they were not supplied with money according to their recommendations & notwithstanding the good intentions & exertions of the people, they have not been able to supply us? And now, sir, I wou'd ask your attention to take a short view of our distressed & reduced state for four months past; an empty treasury & a Starving army not paid for some time & poorly cloathed &c, &c, &c; Please to consider our worthy Genl. using his great influence with the exertions of congress to git the good citizens near the army to supply their wants, without which they must disband; view the civil magistrates & Citizens exerting themselves & supplying them *even* to the last provisions they had, & their families, in consequence thereof, ready to starve around them, coming to Congress for pay

& they unable to afford them relief? Under these circumstances were the bills drawing you refer to, in order to raise money for immediate use; But not long after we had letters from our Minister sent to the Court of Spain that he had met with misfortunes at sea which wou'd hinder his arrival so soon as was expected, & that our agent sent to Holland was disappointed & detained in South Carolina,¹ these were some of the reasons why Congress stoped drawing and despairing of fixing their currency without calling in the whole by taxes as many people took all possible advantage by Congress's selling them so low.

I consider it as unnecessary to point out to so great a statesman as your Honor the immediate relief the public wou'd receive from the resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March if they were carried into effect.

Congress as Congress, can't want my assistance to Support or justify their proceedings, but they have to lament.²

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten. Endorsed: "Copy of a letter to Mr. Palmer May 5th. 1780."

¹ Holten is referring to John Jay and Henry Laurens, on whom Congress had decided in November 1779 to draw £100,000 in bills of exchange "at six months sight." *JCC*, 15:1299-1300.

² Remainder of MS missing.

Charles Thomson to John Brown

Sir,

Philada May 5. 1780.

I this day received your letter of April 8th which is the only one on the subject that has come to hand. Your letter of the 9 June 1779 with the petition and remonstrance enclosed was read in Congress on the 1 July following and ordered to lie on the table. Nothing farther has been done in the matter.¹

I am, Sr, your humble Servt,

Cha Thomson

FC (DNA: PCC, item 78). In the hand of Charles Thomson.

¹ Col. Brown was attempting to revive charges against Benedict Arnold, pertaining to the conduct of the Canadian invasion in 1775-76, which he had levelled against the general as early as 1776 and had formally resubmitted to Congress in June 1779. These had been so scurrilous and exaggerated that the Board of War had originally virtually ignored them and Congress continued to preserve silence on the subject. They had been revived in 1779 by Timothy Matlack during the Pennsylvania Council's campaign to discredit Arnold, but they seem to have been largely ignored at that time as well. Brown's June 9, 1779, "Memorial and Remonstrance" and his April 8, 1780, letter to Thomson are in PCC, item 42, 1:179-84, item 78, 3:455-58. For a general discussion of Brown's relations with Arnold, see James T. Flexner, *The Traitor and the Spy. Benedict Arnold and John Andre* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1953), pp. 43, 88, 94, 100, 114, 129, 249.

William Churchill Houston to Robert Morris

Dear Sir,

Philada. 6 May 1780

Yours of the 17th March last continued to the 20th I received on the 23d and thank you for the Observations on several Subjects which it contains.¹ The only Thing I can at present find Intermission from Business to reply to is what I suppose will immediately engage the Deliberations of the Legislature, I mean the Resolutions of 18 March last upon Finance.

The operation of so large a Tax, as you observe, would probably have affected the Money, if it were punctually paid, and, when paid, adequate to the publick Exigencies; throwing out of the Question altogether [. . .] any Part of the Collection; because the Prices are [fairly?] proportionate to the Quantity in Circulation. But the great Difficulty is that the Taxes never have been punctually paid, and, if they were, even adding Loans to them, would not accumulate a Fund adequate to the publick Expenditures at present. The Prices will not fall rapidly, indeed it is not perhaps best they should; and after every reformation in the publick Departments, which can be made, shall be made, some other Means must be adduced in Assistance of Loans and Taxes to pay off the publick Debts and continue the Operations of the War. This Plan of Finance is therefore calculated to neat Money into the Treasury, and to this, among other indispensable Objects, one of which is, if possible, to give some Equilibrium to the Medium, the several Parts of it were necessarily pointed. You also know it has long been the importunate Intreaty and wish of the People, "fix the Value of the money somewhere little Matter at what if it can be prevented from fluctuating. It is the Fluctuation more than the reduction of value, as far as these can be separated and distinguished, that perplexes and embarrasses every Thing." This will, I think turn the Tide of Depreciation, and have a Tendency to poise the value somewhere if it can have Time to operate, and if the publick Exigencies do not press so intolerably, that Congress may be under the Necessity of taking some Measure which may give the Course of it an unlucky Touch, and derange the whole. I am fully convinced that a Plan regularly adhered to, if not quite so wise, will produce better Effects, than desultory, altering and temporary Expedients often mended and corrected before they have Time to produce any steady Effects.

I hope our Legislature will adopt the Plan, not only because I think it of publick Expediency, but because it seems to be well received as far as I have heard every where but in this—City—No Object of Imitation believe me. But even here most who understand it, approve it. It is adopted eagerly to the Eastward,² though Exchange was lower there than anywhere else on the Continent. I wish the Legislature

[would] consider the Propriety of putting a Clause in the Bill to allow any one that pleased to bring in his Money and have it exchanged, still going on with the Taxes. One Reason is this, I foresee that it will be necessary to take in the Certificates in the Staff Departments for Taxes. They have contracted Debts almost beyond Computation as if they had been employed for no other Purpose than to try how much they could owe. What is become of the Purchases does not appear as yet. This will indeed be a way of paying some of the publick Debts, I am sorry it is not a better one, but it will bring no Money into the Treasury. Therefore we shall be behind in our Taxes, and they must continue longer to get in the Money, if it is not got in some other Way. And should it all come in by Exchange, the Taxes can go on at a fortieth for the Prosecution of the War or any other necessary Purpose.

The State of New York I observe have ordered the Certificates in that State, given by the Quarter Master's and Commissary's Departments receivable in Taxes; and notwithstanding we have resorted to every possible Expedient to get the Debts paid off in our State, we can effect Nothing to Purpose, and Mr. Dunham was obliged to go away a few Days ago empty. I suppose therefore we shall have to do as New York have done. Have more to say, but neither Time nor Room. Am, as always Yours &c, William C Houston³

RC (NjR: Robert Morris Papers).

¹ Morris had apparently responded to Houston's letter of March 6–13, 1780.

² See James Duane to Washington, May 4, 1780, note.

³ In a second letter of this day, Houston solicited Morris' support for his admission to the bar, having recently "addressed an Application to the Judges of the [*New Jersey*] Supreme Court." "The Rule which exacts a certain Period of Clerkship in an Office as necessary to an Admission at the Bar, is, I know against me," Houston conceded, but he had been devoting his leisure time to legal studies and concluded that even if he should never practice law, "it would still be very desirable to rank in the Profession, not only that I might be occasionally more useful to my Country and Friends, which ought to be a primary Object, but because it is favourable to Chara[c]ter and notice in Life, a Consideration superior to the Motives of Gain." Robert Morris Papers, NjR. In a May 28 reply, Morris discussed the procedure for Houston's admission to the bar and concluded that the prospects were generally "agreeable." Ibid. Houston was admitted to the bar and appointed clerk of the New Jersey Supreme Court in 1781. DAB.

Samuel Huntington to George Clinton

Sir,

Philada May 6. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the first Instant with the Copies of a Letter from the Honorable John Jay Esquire and Narrative of Mr Keith chaplain to the Con-

federacy respecting the Humanity & Kindness of a Mrs Smith manifested to our Prisoners in New York.¹

As such Instances of Humanity merit public Notice, and this Mrs Smith being an Inhabitant of the State of New York, it is deemed expedient to transmit your Excellency Copies of these Papers.

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ *JCC*, 16:400. While on board the *Confederacy* at Martinique enroute to Spain, Jay learned from the Rev. Robert Keith, the ship's chaplain, a tale of extraordinary sacrifice and humanitarian assistance rendered by an elderly New York widow, Mrs. Sarah Smith, to American prisoners who had been captured at Fort Washington. Jay was so struck by Mrs. Smith's heroics that he asked Keith, one of the prisoners involved, to write down his story so that if she could be located "Congress may have an Opportunity of saving [her] from Poverty and Distress." Copies of Keith's narrative and Jay's letter to Congress are in PCC, item 110, 3:20-23.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia May 6 1780

You will receive herewith inclosed an Act of Congress of the 4th Inst. ordering that the enclosed Copy of a Letter from James Gray D. C. Genl of Issues in the Northern Department be transmitted to you.¹

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Gentlemen, your most obdt hble servt,

Sam. Huntington President

P.S. By Intelligence via N. York we are informed, our Army and Friends were in Possession of Charles Town the 20th Ult. My last Letter from Genl. Lincoln is the 9th of April, accompanied with a Letter to His Excellency the Commander in Chief which was immediately forwarded & by which I presume Genl Washington has received as late Intelligence from Genl. Lincoln as I could communicate.

S.H.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Gray's April 17 letter to Huntington complaining of his inability to bring John Hanson, a former assistant commissary of issues at Fort Schuyler, to a settlement of his accounts, is in PCC, item 78, 10:247-48. Congress ordered that it be referred to the Board of Treasury, with a copy to be transmitted to the Committee at Headquarters. *JCC*, 16:412. For the Board of Treasury's recommendation "That it is inexpedient for Congress to interpose" in this case, but "That it be recommended to the several States to pass laws for giving speedy remedy against all persons intrusted with public supplies who refuse or delay to account," see *JCC*, 17:424.

James Madison to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir

Philada. May 6th. 1780

I am sorry I can give you no other account of our public situation than that it continues equally perplexed & alarming as when I lately gave you a sketch of it.¹ Our army has as yet been kept from starving and public measures from a total stagnation by draughts on the States for the unpaid requisitions. The great amount of these you may judge of from the share that has fallen to Virginia. The discharge of debts due from the purchasing departments has absorbed a great proportion of them, and very large demands still remain. As soon as the draughts amount to the whole of the monthly requisitions up to the end of March, they must cease according to the new scheme of finance. We must then depend wholly on the emissions to be made in pursuance of that scheme which can only be applied as the old emissions are collected & destroyed. Should this not be done as fast as the current expenditures require, or should the new emissions fall onto a course of depreciation both of which may but too justly be feared a most melancholy crisis must take place. A punctual compliance on the part of the States with the specific supplies will indeed render much less money necessary than would otherwise be wanted, but experience by no means affords satisfactory encouragement that due and unanimous exertions will be made for that purpose not to mention that our distress is so pressing that it is uncertain whether any exertions of that kind can give relief in time. It occurs besides, that as the ability of the people to comply with the pecuniary requisitions is derived from the sale of their commodities, a requisition of the latter must make the former proportionally more difficult and defective. Congress have the satisfaction however to be informed that the legislature of Connecticut have taken the most vigorous steps for supplying their quota both of money & commodities and that a body of their principal merchants have associated for supporting the credit of the new paper, for which purpose they have in a public address pledged their faith to the Assembly to sell their merchandise on the same terms for it as if they were to be paid in specie. A similar vigor throughout the Union may perhaps produce effects as far exceeding our present hopes as they have heretofore fallen short of our wishes.

It is to be observed that the situation of Congress has undergone a total change from what it originally was. Whilst they exercised the indefinite power of emitting money on the credit of their constituents they had the whole wealth & resources of the continent within their command, and could go on with their affairs independently and as they pleased. Since the resolution passed for shutting the press, this power has been entirely given up and they are now as dependent on the States as the King of England is on the parliament. They can neither enlist pay nor feed a single soldier, nor execute any other

purpose but as the means are first put into their hands. Unless the legislatures are sufficiently attentive to this change of circumstances and act in conformity to it every thing must necessarily go wrong or rather must come to a total stop. All that Congress can do in future will be to administer public affairs with prudence, vigor and œconomy; In order to do which they have sent a Committee to Head Quarters with ample powers in concert with the Commander in chief and the Heads of the departments to reform the various abuses which prevail and to make such arrangements as will best guard against a relapse into them.

The papers inclosed herewith contain all the news we have here.

With great regard I am Dr Sir Yr Obt Servt

James Madison Jnr

RC (DLC: Madison Papers). Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:19-20.

¹ Probably Madison's letter of March 27, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to James Duane

Dear Sir

Morris town March [i.e. May] 6th 1780¹

I am mortified that I had not the pleasure of meeting you here on your Journey to Philadelphia, where I hope you arrived safe, In good [. . .] In your us[ual] good Spirits.

The business of our miss[ion proceeds?] tardily. Mr Scott will shew [you] my letter pointing at the Cause. General Greene has not yet answerd our letter on the Subject of his requisition, I apprehend from some Communications which have been made me that It will not be agreable to my wish.

I feel myself distressed on this Occasion and the more so as no Competent Successor has yet ocured to me should he resign.

The Inclosed have been delivered me within this half hour, I apprehend the detention of the party I sent with my letter to Colo. Johnson forbodes no good. I wish for your opinion on the Subject of the letters, to what place shall we Advise Mr Dow to move the Oneidas &c?² to the upper or the Lower Castle? for we seem to have only the Alternative of these, can you procure any money [for] Cloathing for him?

The Marquis De la Fayette's arrival at Boston [ha]s Just been announced, he is expected [he]re to day.³

I hope you left Mrs. Duane and the family well. I have sent for Mrs. Schuyler to meet me here and we shall probably visit Philadelphia before we return to Albany.

Adieu I am Dear Sir, Sincerely Yours &ca &ca,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (NH: Duane Papers). MS torn.

¹ Although Schuyler clearly wrote "March 6," the contents of this letter indicate that it was written in May, when Schuyler was at Morristown as a member of the Committee at Headquarters and just after Duane had returned to Congress.

² For Duane's response, see Duane to Schuyler, May 12, 1780.

³ Lafayette had arrived at Boston on April 27 and left on May 2 to visit Washington at Morristown, where he arrived on May 10. See Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda), 3:3-6, 11.

John Fell to William Livingston

Dear sir,

Philada. May 7th [1780]. Sunday.

I have the Pleasure to informe your Excellency of the safe arrival of our mutual friend Mr. Jay at Cadiz in 25 days from Martinico, I think it was on the 22d January (a fine Passage indeed). The account came this after noon from Martinico Via St Eustaius in the Active, Capt. Mesnard, in 14 days,¹ And as I was informd this Evening of Mr R Willings going to Morristown tomorrow, was glad of the opportunity to give you the early intelligence.

This day I Receivd a Card from the President of Congress directed to the Delegates of New Jersey, by desire of the Minister of France, that we would attend tomorrow morning at 9 oClock at the Catholic Chapple in this City to Pray (I believe it was to Pray, but as it was French which I do not understand very well I am not sure) for the Repose of the Soul of Mr Merallies. I shall attend and doe the needfull, as he was an old friend of mine at the Havana. The Chevalier used to call the Don, the King of the Segars, I had the Honour of dineing last week with the Chevalier but observed now Don Juan is dead, no Segars were introduc'd, for which reason a certain Person of your acquaintance allways makes his Visites short when that is the Case.

What can be done Sir for Mr John Hopper and his Poor distressed family at Peramus who are totally Ruin'd. I had drawn up the following which I intended to move in Congress, but on shewing it to several Gentlemen they think it will not doe as it would occasion so many applications Viz. Resolv'd, That in consideration of the great Loss susstaind by Mr John Hopper of Peramus, in having his Mill, Dwelling house and Effects burnt by the Enemy, in consequence of Major Byles bravely deffending himself in said House, be allowd the Sum of Dollors in Part compensation of said Losse. If your Legislature should not incline to doe something for him Perhaps a Reccommendation from you to Congress would have weight. I am sure Justice requires something to be done and I think I can deppend on your friendly assistance in the Premises.² What are your Poor Delegates to doe, for want of money some of your Gentlemen disapprove of our applying here for money, in consequence I have applyd to

your State Treasurer but without success, as he sent me only a Part, without giving me any reason for his non compliance. My Landlady cannot goe to Market without money and I doe not love to Run in debt for Bread & Water. (A Hint.)

Monday P.M. The Gentleman not goeing out of Town so early as I expected has intirely frusterated my Intention of giving you the first intelligenc. However I hope you will accept the will for the deed, And as the Letter is wrote shall trouble you with the Perusal. I am with great Respect Your Excellencys Most Obedt. Humble Servt.

John Fell

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ News of John Jay's arrival in Spain reached Philadelphia in an April 7, 1780, letter to the Committee for Foreign Affairs from Samuel Parsons of St. Pierre, who had replaced William Bingham as Continental agent in Martinique. The letter was read in Congress on Monday, May 8. See PCC, item 78, 18:275-82; and JCC, 17:415. The letter was read in Congress on Monday, May 8.

² For Livingston's appeal to Congress in the case of John Hopper, see Fell to Livingston, May 23, 1780, note.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[May 8, 1780]

8. Monday. The post bro't no letters. I attended at the Roman Catholick church, on acct. of the death of Don Juan.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ For the death and burial of Juan de Miralles at Washington's headquarters at Morristown on April 28-29, see Robert R. Livingston to the Marquis de Barbé-Marbois, May 3, 1780, note 1.

James Madison to John Page?

Dear Sir

Philadelphia May 8th. 1780

By yesterday's post I had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 27th. Ult^o.¹ The price of Dunlap's paper I understand will be 204 Drs. per annum² besides the gratification to the Post which will be not much less. But if there were less objection against the expence, the uncertainty of the conveyance is such that I scarcely think it would be worth your while to become a subscriber. Should that still be your wish however your instructions shall be immediately executed.

Our public affairs still continue in a very confused and critical state owing to the distress of public credit. Nor can they be well put into a better one till the new arrangement of finance and the requisition

of specific supplies are complied with by the States. It appears that this is likely to be done with great decision and energy in the Eastern States. And if Virginia fulfils the expectation and hopes of the public, I flatter myself that however objectionable past[?] measures may be thought we shall in future stand on firmer ground than we have ever done. The terms on which the new money is to be emitted will certainly give it a more substantial and intrinsic value than the old ever had, and the experienced folly of tampering with public credit, will it is to be hoped prevent any mischief to it from that source. Our great danger at present arises from the dilatory proceedings of the States and the real difficulty of drawing forth those resources which the new System is to operate upon. The Treasury and the Army both require immediate relief; and every thing must be in a state of stagnation, to say the least, till the contributions of Money & Stores arrive. It is not to be expected that Congress can do any thing further of themselves. The only real power they ever had of supporting the war was that of emitting money on the faith of their Constituents. Their vote for stopping the press was a voluntary relinquishment of that. They are now totally dependent on the supplies from the States. They can not execute a single measure but as the means are first put into their hands. It is absolutely necessary that the States should attend to this change of circumstances and regulate their conduct accordingly. Any further reliance on the *(independent)* separate resources of Congress will infallibly end in disappointment & ruin.

A Vessel from the West Indies brings information that Mr Gerard & Mr Jay had arrived at Cales [Cadiz?] in 22 days from their leaving Martinique.³ The English fleet at St. Lucia consists of 22 Ships of the line and a few frigates. They had collected their force at that place in order to make an attempt on Grenada & St. Vincents. But the french reinforcement has stopped that enterprize. The Marquis de Bouillé has also strengthened those places with 800 troops sent to one and 600 to the other.

The Enemy at N. York have received late despatches from Europe. But a profound silence is as yet observe[d] with regard to the news in them. An Opinion prevails there that Paul Jones is on the Coast with a small squadron. They say in their papers that the Galatea has been chased by it and that a 74 & some other ships are going out in search of it. The Marquis de la Fayette is arrived at Boston and probably will be here in a few days.⁴ His return was not expected and is considered as an omen not unfavorable.

I suppose you must have heard of the death of your friend Don Juan de Miralles. We were this morning on the invitation of [the] Minister of France, at the celebration of the service for the repose of his Soul. He died at Head Quarters whither he attended the Minister on a visit to the Genl & the Army. Every mark of sincere regret

is visible in all those who were acquainted with him. The lying genius of Rivington has converted his death into that of the Chevalr. de la Luzerne who he says was obliged to fly to the Army for protection against the vengeance of the people. With very sincere esteem & regard I am Dr Sir [Yr.] Obt. & humble Servt

James Madison Jnr.

Reprinted from Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:21-22.

¹ Not found.

² Apparently the new subscription rate for John Dunlap's *Pennsylvania Packet or the General Advertiser*, which had changed from a triweekly to a semiweekly newspaper on April 8, 1780.

³ See John Fell to William Livingston, May 7, 1780, note 1.

⁴ See Philip Schuyler to James Duane, May 6, 1780, note 3.

James Duane to George Washington

My dear General.

Philadelphia 9th May 1780.

I Judge of your Excellency's Anxiety for the Fate of Charles Town by my own. When we have much at Stake Events, tho' not very important, are interesting: I shall not therefore fail to give you every Intelligence which comes well authenticated from that Quarter tho' it may probably often happen to be no more than a Repetition of your official Information. The President yesterday received dispatches with a Copy of a Letter from Mr Jervais, who is either paymaster or Commissary for the Detachment of the Army to the Southward, dated the 6th Ultimo;¹ and it appears that our Cavalry under General Huger was surprized by the Enemy & sustained a Loss of 20 men & 30 Horses: That this Success enabled the Enemy to head Cooper River, and take post on the North side, and that it will eventually compleat the blockade of the Town: That the Injury from their Operations against the Garrison is very inconsiderable; from the Land side having killed only a woman & a Child and two Privates of the Virginia Line; & set on Fire three Houses: from the Water they have made no Attack. It is the Letter writer's opinion that if the expected Reinforcement from North Carolina arrives in any Season, the Party of the Enemy posted on the North side of the River—separated as they are from their main body—must fall into our Hands, Mr Lawrence the late President, to whom this Letter is addressed, observes that what *Force* cannot, *Famine* may effect. But if the Town, as it is reported, is Supplied with provisions for a Six month's Siege, and the Fire of the Enemy should not become much more formidable; the danger of a Reduction seems to be very remote. The account adds—and it gives me pleasure—that Governour Rutledge & five of the Council have been prevailed on to quit the

Town, in order to support a legal Government in the Country, and enforce Measures for opening and preserving a Communication with the Garrison; and that Mr Gadsden the Lieut Governour with five of the Council remain in the Town. Sir Henry Clinton seems to have put every thing to the hazard in this Enterprize, and from the deliberate Caution of his Motions to bid defiance to the whole power of the Southern States. God grant that he may have Reason to repent his Temerity!

I am much concerned at the Want of money in the military Chest and other Departments: Nothing in our power will be left undone to obtain a competent Supply: but it is to be feared that some distress is necessary to rouse the States to more decisive Exertions. We learn since my last that the new plan of Finance will be supported in Virginia as it already is to the Eastward. This ought to be the Endeavour of every Friend to our Cause. It is unavailing and fruitless to examine into it's policy, or even to exclaim against the Injustice it may do to Individuals. Private opinion and private Interest must give way to publick Councils & the publick Safety; & it ought to be remembered that in a Case of such difficulty and Embarrasment while some Remedy seemed to be indispensably necessary, none could have been devised which would not have been objectable.

The Arrival of a Packet at New York we are informed has produced many dejected Countenances; but as this has been an invariable Remark on every such Event for three years we cannot be much elated. We have however All the Reason to be wished for this Reflection that the Distresses of our Enemies bear a full proportion to our own; and that they cannot but feel the Strongest Apprehensions that the War must terminate in our favour.

I congratulate your Excellency on the Arrival in Europe of Mr Jay & Mr Gerard; & of our Gallant Friend the Marquiss La Fayette in America.² Mr. Telfare and another Gentleman are just arrived & Col. Walton daily expected, as Delegates from Georgia.³

Be pleased to present my most respectful Complements to Mrs Washington, the Gentlemen of the Committee, & of the Family: and to be assured that I am with all possible Esteem, Respect and Attachment, Dear Sir, Your Excellency's very Affectionate & most Obedient Servant,

Jas. Duane

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ The receipt of Gervais' letter is not mentioned in the journals, and it is not in PCC.

² For the arrival at Boston of the marquis de Lafayette, see Philip Schuyler to Duane, May 6, 1780, note 4.

³ When Edward Telfair, William Few, and George Walton "attended and produced their credentials" on May 15, Georgia was again represented in Congress for the first time since April 1779. See *JCC*, 18:426-27; and these *Letters*, 12:296-98.

Oliver Ellsworth to Benjamin Huntington

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia May 9, 1780.

I should much sooner have wrote & requested you to releive me in Congress as you rember was proposed in conversations between us, but I understood by Brown the last time he was here that you was ready to come & expected to set out as soon as the riding was settled, which is now a great while since, to be sure when measured on the scale of my impatience. I must intreat you Sir, immediately on the receipt of this that laying aside all manner of business & excuses you come forward & take your seat, which will otherwise be left vacant for I cannot stay to fill it for you much longer.¹ I do not know who it is agreed shall come forward with you, but I think it my duty to say that the scituation of the publick business is such at present as renders it necessary there should be a full representation from every State, & I hope you will bring two Gentlemen with you, but at all events that you bring one.

All the News we have here I have written in a letter to the Governor,² which as you will probably be at Hartford with him when you receive this you will have the opportunity of reading if you desire it.

I wish you to present my most most respectful compliments to Colo Dyer who I think it probable will come on with you, & beleive me to be, with much esteem, Dear Sir, your obed. huml Servt.

Oliv. Ellsworth

RC (MHi: Washburn Collection).

¹ Although Huntington set off for Philadelphia at once and attended Congress on June 1, he decided to be inoculated for smallpox soon after his arrival and Ellsworth remained in Philadelphia until his colleague had recovered. For Ellsworth's return to Connecticut, apparently on July 1, see Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, June 23, 1780, note 2.

Ellsworth's desire to return home was also the subject of his most recent letter to his wife. "If I had Only your happiness & my own to consult," he had explained to Abigail on April 30, "I should instantly & forever quit the perplexing scenes of publick life, in which I have already had more than my share, and far more than I ever wished for. But The publick calamity & distres is at present too great for any one to think of retiring from it who can be in the least serviceable. This consideration I hope will reconcile you to my absence, and indeed to my being but little better than absent when I am at home. If it should please God, my dear, once more to send us peace, & prosperity to the publick, then I think I shall be much more your humble servant as well as my own than I am at present. But I know you will laugh to hear me talk of ever being as easy & happy, & probably will repeat to yourself those lines of the poet

'Hope springs eternal in the human breast
man never is but ever to be blest.'

"Here I will leave you for the present, to make as many reflections upon the vanity of human life & the prospects of this world as you please, while I myself hasten away



Oliver Ellsworth

to Church to get some consolation from the preacher; for you must know it is now Sunday morning, & that I continue the good practice of going to meeting, tho' I walk alone & have not your company there to enliven my devotion." Ellsworth Papers, CtHi.

² See the next entry.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia May 9t. 1780¹

Your Excellency will probably before the receipt of this have been informed of the death of the honorable Don Juan Demarellles the spanish gentleman of distinction that resided at this place. He died after a short illness the 28th of April at Morristown to which place he had accompanied the Minister of France, to pay their respects to the General & Army. His remains were there interred with the honors of war, and his funeral rites have been also here celebrated this day in the french chappel with very great respect & a lasting requiem sung to his soul.

This Gentleman during his residence here appeared zealously attentive to the political interests & views of this Country as well as his own; & waited with impatience to see the ties between the two countries indissolubly formed by a ratification of treaties of amity & commerce which he expected would take place on the arival of our Minister at the Court of Spain.

Much anxiety prevails here to know the fate of Charlestown, from which there are no accounts, to be depended on, later than the 9th of April,² nor does it appear from the papers published in New York to the 3d of this month, that any accounts have been received there later than ours. In addition to the other troops that had been before detached from the main army & sent to General Lincoln, the Delaware regiment & the Maryland line went on a few days agoe, & will arive it is hoped in season to support the country should the enemy be so fortunate as to gain a temporary advantage.

There are very circumstantial accounts from New York, transmitted to General Washington, that Paul Jones is on this Coast with a small squadron of five Ships, & had lately chased some vessels into the Hook, & that a 74 Gun Ship & some Frigats were preparing at New York to go in quest of him. This may be true, it is unknown to Congress where he is.

Several Vessels have arived in this river from St. Eustatia as late as the 23d of April, but bring no material intelligence in addition to what was here before except that the two formidable fleets in the West Indies were both out of port, & that a very busy & important campaign was expected in that quarter.

No official information has been very lately received by Congress

from Europe; but from the current of publications on that side the water & especially the english papers, it does not appear that any power has yet been found sufficiently uninformed to join Great Britain in her wicked & romantick attempts of reducing to obedience what she yet stiles her rebellious Colonies. And as she cannot obtain assistance she seems willing to have it beleived that she stands in need of none; & accordingly goes on with a shew & pretensions of being sufficient for all things of herself; much perhaps as a merchant sometimes on the eve of bankruptcy makes an uncommon parade of wealth & business in order to keep up the delusion till chance may have had time to achieve something in his favour. The comparison however fails in this respect that it is no secret to the world that the circumstances of Great Britain are bad, & that the minds of her wisest men are filled with consternation. She is ready to be crushed with the weight of her own debt, which is accumulating upon her by the whole expence of the war, & for which she is already mortgaged to pay forever an annual interest of seven millions sterling. Her revenues being fully charged with the interest it is impossible for her ever to reduce the principal, but by a sponge or revolution; & as impossible for her to go on much farther in borrowing. She is also embarrassed with the claims of oppressed Ireland, & which may perhaps advance upon her as she is less in a condition to contest them. Scotland also tho' habitually servile to the Throne, begins now to speak with determined insolence & will be heard. Add to which, county conventions, in spite of the ministry, are now forming in various parts of England under the first-characters of the Nation, for reducing within due bounds the influence of the crown & the publick expenditures, or which is the same thing, oversetting the present venal & utopian system of administration. From these marks of weakness & dissolution she bears within herself, it is reasonable to expect that Great Britain will e're long cease from troubling us; and unless she can speedily regain the sovereignty of the seas, she may be reduced, from her insular scituation to hold her own existance at the mercy of her enemies. The Use good men in America will derive from these considerations, will be of encouragement to persevere in the present contest, & to continue working with the Lord until by his good pleasure the great business of our political salvation shall be fully accomplished.

It must, I know, be supporting to your Excellency to observe that the State over which you have the honor to preside, are sufficiently impressed with these sentiments already, & do not need additional arguments laid before them to comply with their duty & their interest. Their sense & determination expressed by the general Assembly in their late Sessions at Hartford are a full proof of this, and at the same time exhibit to the world a conviction of the never failing resources a wise & virtuous republick has within itself.

I thought it my duty to read in Congress the accounts I had received from Connecticut, & was kept in countenance by their just approbation. And it is devoutly to be wished that the well timed & animating example of so respectable a State may have its due influence with the rest. A number of their Assemblies as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia are it is said now convened or convening, & will be informed thro' the channel of the Philadelphia paper, if not otherwise, what Connecticut has done.³

I have the honor to be, Sir, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedt. humbl. Servant, Oliver Ellsworth

P.S. Since writing the above advice is received from Charlestown to the 15 of April 2 oClock P.M.⁴ The Enemy had opened their batteries on the town on the 12th & kept them incessantly playing but without much execution. They had surprised a party of the light-Dragoons; Our loss was about 20 men, 30 Horses & 20 waggons with their Horses. The Enemy had also crossed Cooper river & were taking a strong post on the north side of it nearly opposite the town & were endeavouring to complete the Blockade, which unless a reinforcement seasonably arrived there was danger of their effecting.

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Although Ellsworth clearly dated this letter "May 9," it was undoubtedly drafted on May 8, the day funeral rites were held in Philadelphia for Juan de Miralles, which Ellsworth states in the first paragraph of this letter were "celebrated this day." Cf. John Fell to William Livingston, May 7; and Samuel Holten's Diary, May 8, 1780.

² For news from Charleston "to the 15 of April," see the postscript of this letter.

³ Ellsworth is undoubtedly referring to Connecticut's response to Congress' March 18 financial resolutions asking the states to tax "old" Continental currency (revalued at 40 to 1) out of circulation, and to make the revalued new bills legal tender. Official word of Connecticut's response arrived in a letter of May 1 from Governor Trumbull, which was presented to Congress on May 11. *JCC*, 17:422-23. For the Connecticut statute enclosed by Trumbull, see the *Public Records of Connecticut*, 2:516-21. Ellsworth may have already received Roger Sherman's April 27 letter to him, however, reporting that the Assembly "have adopted the recommendations of Congress respecting the money & the procuring the Specific Supplies, which is all the business of any great importance that was done in the session." Roger Sherman Papers, CtY.

⁴ This news arrived late on Monday May 8, enclosed in an April 24 letter of North Carolina governor Abner Nash, which was read in Congress on May 9. *JCC*, 17:415. The despatches enclosed by Nash were printed in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* and the *Pennsylvania Journal* on May 10.

Samuel Huntington to Abner Nash

Sir, Philada May 9. 1780

Your favour of the 24th Ultio with the papers enclosed, I received last Evening, which were laid before Congress this Morning.¹

The whole of the Continental Troops belonging to the States of

Delaware and Maryland are ordered to South Carolina, and have passed this City several Days since; and will be hastened as fast as possible on their March to the Southward.

I am much concerned for Charlestown, hope the Country will rally, and afford such Succours as to keep open a Communication and support the garrison until this reinforcement arrives.

I have the honour to be &c &c.

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ Governor Nash's April 24 letter to Congress, which is in PCC, item 72, fols. 73-74, was "referred to the Board of War." *JCC*, 17:415. Nash wrote it at the request of the North Carolina Assembly and enclosed with it intelligence concerning the grave threat to South Carolina posed by the British siege of Charleston.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia May 9. 1780.

I have been honoured with your Excellency's Despatches of the 28th Ultio and 5th instant.¹ By Letters from Martinique (via Eustatia) I have the Pleasure and Satisfaction to find that the Honble Messrs Jay and Gerard arrived safe at Cadiz on the 22d of January after a Passage of twenty five from Martinique.

The enclosed Extract of a Letter from one of the Council of South Carolina will give your Excellency the latest Intelligence received from that Quarter.²

I have the honour to be, with Sentiments of the highest Respect & Esteem, your Excellency's obedt hbb'l servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Washington's two letters of April 28 and one of May 5 are in PCC, item 152, 8:531-41, and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:312-13, 329-31.

² Enclosure not identified.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Morris Town May 10th. 1780

The necessary enquiries at the posts in the communication from Philadelphia hither, & the heavy rains which fell, retarded our Journey so much, that we did not reach this place untill the 28th Ultio.

Judging it advisable to inform ourselves, as fully as possible on the general subject of our Mission, before we attempted an alteration in any of the departments, We held conferences with the Commander

in Chief for several days succeeding our arrival. The result of which, was, that the distressed State of the army, in point of provisions, should claim immediate attention, to the arrangement of the two great staff Departments, so as, to adapt them to securing & bringing on the supplies called for from the several States, by the act of the 25th of February last. Systems for both have been attempted, & some progress made therein. We find little difficulty in establishing one for receiving, securing, issuing, & properly accounting for, the expenditure of supplies to be furnished by the states. But, embarrassments of a serious nature arose, through a want of money on the one hand, to pay for the transportation thereof, a want of forage on the other, in those States which are not called on to furnish any, & in which the Continental officers are probably inhibited from purchasing, as they are in this State, & where the quota of that article, is already expended, at the same time, that the State Officers cannot go beyond the quantities assigned them. And yet, a vast land transportation must of necessity take place, in & through States, under either predicament. The impracticability of conveying Forage from States remotely situated is too evident to require any comments on our parts. Hence, unless the States are requested to repeal so much of their laws as prohibit the Continental Officers from making purchases, whenever Congress, or some superintending board, or Military Commander, shall judge it necessary, the public service must inevitably be retarded, if not totally stagnated. Nor, should the repeal be confined, to a mere permission for procuring forage, but, be extended to every enumerated article under the restrictions mentioned. For it is beyond a doubt that cases will arise, in which the army will be resupplied in particular States, when the quotas of such States have been expended, And those of others not only so remote, as to afford little prospect of immediate relief, but, too much so, to draw the supplies from thence, on any principle of æconomy, if they could be got at hand, as the mere charge of transportation, would greatly exceed the prime cost. But the repeals We have stated to be necessary, are not alone sufficient, for unless money is immediately furnished to pay for the transportation of supplies from the different magazines in hired carriages, & to redeem the public working cattle which the farmers in every quarter hold in pledge for the payment of their subsistence through the winter every plan of supply must prove nugatory, & all we have done, or can do, relative to the arrangement of those departments, will be inadequate to the great object. Indeed such are the accumulated distresses of the army at this conjuncture, & such the effects of a repetition of want, that it has had a very pernicious influence on the soldiery. Their patience is exhausted, by being exposed to such frequent sufferings, that they already begin to ascribe to a defect of resources, what they have hitherto been taught to believe arose from accidental impediment.

Their starving condition, Their want of pay, & the variety of hardships they have ben driven to sustain, has soured their tempers, & produced a spirit of discontent which begins to display itself under a complexion of the most alarming hue. If this spirit should fully establish itself, it must be productive of some violent convulsion, infinitely to our prejudice at home, & abroad, as it would evince a want of means, or a want of wisdom to apply them. Either of which must bring our cause into discredit & draw in its train, consequences of a nature too serious to be contemplated without the deepest anxiety. Permit us therefore to intreat the immediate attention of Congress to this necessary supply, for the purpose we have mentioned. And, for the payment of the troops, to whom the Paymaster is now greatly in arrears, and the Officers so entirely destitute, that many for want of their subsistance money, with which they made some addition to their single rations, are now reduced to the disagreeable necessity of making it their whole support.

On examining into the State of provisions in Camp we find there is not more meat than will last untill the 12th Inst. Collo. Blane is come up, & we learn from him that he has no prospect of an immediate supply of this article. The only resource we can turn our eyes to, in this exigency is, the State of Pennsylvania. If they fail to make *instantaneous* exertions for the relief of the army—We will not pretend to say, what may be the event!

Before we had an opportunity closely to view and examine into the real State of things, we had no conception of the almost inex-tricable difficulties, in which we found them involved.

We have stated matters plainly. We have been impelled to it by every consideration of duty, by the sincere desire we have to fulfill the views & expectations of Congress, in our appointment, And by the principles of unbounded affection for our Country. These will lead us to every exertion And without a moments delay to lop off[f] every exuberancy which can be effected without material injury.

We have omitted observing that the Medical department are destitute of those necessities, which are indispensable for the sick. They have neither wine, Tea, sugar, Coffee, Chocolate, or spirits. We wish orders may be given for an immediate supply, as the army grow more sickly every hour.

Inclosed is a Copy of a letter from the Commissaries Genl. of purchases, & Issues, to the Commander in Chief.¹

We have the Honour to be, sir, with the highest Respect Yr most Obedt. Servts.

P Schuyler

Jno Mathews

Nathl Peabody

Peabody, and Schuyler. Endorsed: "Letter from the Comee sent to headquarters, May 10. 1780. Read 12. Referred to Mr Ellsworth, Mr Muhlenberg, Mr Houston." FC (DNA: PCC, item 39, 1:1-11). In the hand of Philip Schuyler and dated "May 9th 1780."

¹ Copies of this May 9 letter from Ephraim Blaine and Charles Stewart to Washington concerning the "distressing" state of supplies for the army are in PCC, item 39, 1:14-15, and 3:287-90. The original is in the Washington Papers, DLC.

Samuel Holten to Richard Derby

Dear Sir.¹

Philadelphia May 10th 1780

Your favor of the 20th ultimo, was delivered me by Mr Millet a few days Since & as he is about sitting out sooner than I expected I can write but a few lines.

You may be assured I am *fully* Sensible that a peace is much to be desired, and as Mr. Adams has full powers & the ultimatum of Congress, it is to be hoped, that it may not be far off.

There was a time since the war commenced that it was disagreeable to me to think of parting with Britain but that particular connection is all over *forever* & the kindness we have received from the King of France & that nation in General must always indear them to me; However, not as I understand some people say that we are to be provinces to France, for you may be assured, that Congress treat with no King or nation, but as Sovereign & independent, & I am sure never will.

I am sorry to hear the trade is embarrassed "in the West Indies", and I am *very* sure it is not known to our Good & great ally for if it was, it wou'd soon be removed! You may not be Sensible that the 11th & 12th articles of the treaty of commerce are made null & void by consent of both parties,² I tho't it had been published, but I will make some more inquiry about it.

It gives me some satisfaction to hear paper Bills are more in demand in this part of the country since the 18th of March & that Congress are informed the state of Connecticut has *fully* complied with their recommendations respecting the currency & supplies for the army; yet I *fully* agree with you, it must be a peace that will enable us to put all our affairs in order.

I inclose you a newspaper which contains the intelligence of the day.

As I expect soon to set out for New England I hope to have the pleasure of paying you my respects in person.

I am, my dear sir, with sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (PHarH: RG 27). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Richard Derby (1712-83), Salem, Mass., merchant, and a member of the Massachusetts Council. *DAB*.

² Articles 11 and 12 of the Franco-American treaty of commerce, which provided that Americans could import molasses duty free from the French West Indies and French merchants would be exempt from duties on United States goods imported for use in those islands, had already been mutually dissolved. See these *Letters*, 9:660n.2.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir Philadelphia May 11th. 1780

Messenger Brown arrived with his dispatches last evening.¹

We have no accounts from Charlestown later than are contained in the letter I did my self the honor of addressing to your Excellency by the Post the 9th of this Month. Two Delegates are arived from Georgia.²

I enclose for your Excellencys perusal the papers of yesterday, And have the honor to be, with the highest Respect, Your Excellency's most obedt. humbl. Sevt.
Olivr. Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Three May 1 letters from Governor Trumbull to President Huntington were read in Congress this day, for which see Huntington to Trumbull, May 20, 1780. Another letter of the same date from Trumbull to Secretary Charles Thomson, promising to attend to the "Collection of the public papers . . . When a leisure moment permitts," was also received this day. See PCC, item 66, 2:51; Thomson to the States, November 20, 1779; and Thomson to Trumbull, March 23, 1780.

"Messenger [Jesse] Brown" also brought Ellsworth news that Connecticut delegate Benjamin Huntington was about to relieve him. "Brown tells me," Ellsworth wrote to his wife Abigail the following day, "that Mr. Huntington was like to set out for Philadelphia immediately after the Election if not before, which I hope he will do— & that I shall be ready to set out for home in a week or ten days after he arrives." Ellsworth Papers, CtHi.

² See James Duane to George Washington, May 9, 1780, note 3.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir, Philadelphia May 11. 1780

Inclosed your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 9th Instant, with a Letter from P. Legras, and other Papers therein referred to, which I am directed to lay before the Executive of the State of Virginia, as proper for the Consideration of the Assembly of that State.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's
hbble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (PBL: Miscellaneous Manuscripts). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Identifying himself as a "Magistrat" of the Vincennes district of the Illinois country, Lt. Col. J. M. P. Legras had written to Huntington from Williamsburg on March

22 in behalf of the inhabitants of his district for relief from losses suffered in accepting Continental paper money for provisions sold to the army of Col. George Rogers Clark. The letter was read in Congress on April 14 and referred to the Virginia delegates, who reported on May 9 that the matter was "proper for the consideration of the general assembly of Virginia, and . . . ought to be transmitted to the executive of that State," a recommendation that was immediately adopted and transmitted to Governor Jefferson with this letter. *JCC*, 16:362, 17:416-17. Legras' letter is in the Continental Congress Papers, Vi. A nearly identical letter of the same date to Jefferson is in Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:328-29.

For Governor Jefferson's disposition of this matter, see *ibid.*, p. 374n, where it is erroneously reported that the enclosed letter from Legras is missing.

George Plater to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia May 11th 1780

The Baron de Calb who commands our Line moving southward & being a Stranger in Maryland, I have taken the Liberty to trouble your Excellency with this Letter to introduce him to you, agreeably to his Inclination & Desire. I am just preparing to leave this Place;¹ & believe I shall find myself under the Necessity of drawing upon our State Treasury for ten thousand Dollars, of which I have thought proper to advise you, that the Bill may meet with no Delay when it appears. Mrs. Plater joins me in Respects to your Lady & self, & I have the Honor to be with the greatest Esteem & Regard, Yr Excellency's most obt Sevt.

Geo. Plater²

RC (PHi: Dreer Collection).

¹ Plater, who had been granted a leave of absence on May 5, cast his final vote the 19th. Maryland was not represented in Congress until June 2 when Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer presented credentials from a special election held April 7, 1780. *JCC*, 16:412, 17:440, 481.

² Two days earlier Plater had written to merchants Stephen West and Lewis Neth, Maryland's commissioners of accounts, merely enclosing a letter from Robert Morris "containing his Accounts & Answer to your Favor." Old Congress Collection, PHi.

Committee of Commerce Certification

Commercial Committee of Congress. 12 May 1780.

We do Certify that on the 27th day of March 1779 The Commercial Committee recd. from the Executors of Peter Chevalier¹ Deceased a sett of bills of Excha. drawn on Duff & Welch of Cadiz for Nineteen hundred & Sixty pounds Sterlg. which they remitted to their Agent at St. Eustatia on the 13th April following & received from the said Agents Goods in return for the use of the Continent, That the said Agents inform them in their letter of 30th Novr. 1779 that they were advised the said bills were duely accepted, That it

appears to the Committee by an original Acct. furnished by Duff & Co to said Executors that payment of the said bill was made in Cadiz on the 20th Augst. 1779.

They further Certify that the said Executors made application to the Committee some Short time after the 27th March aforesaid requesting them to anticipate the payment for the said bills Which some of the Committee declined As the Conditions upon wch. they purchased the said bills were to pay for them as Soon as they should hear of their being duely honored in Europe, at the rate of Nine pounds Currency for One pound Sterling. By Order, James Searle

MS (DNA: PCC, item 31). Written and signed by James Searle.

¹ For the background and resolution of this case, which originated in a January 27, 1780, petition from the executors of Chevalier's estate, see Committee of Commerce Certification, March 25, 1780, note.

James Duane to Philip Schuyler

My dear Friend

Philad. 12th May 1780

I need not tell you that I was much disappointed in not meeting with you at Camp.¹ Besides the pleasure of your Conversation I had in view to consult you on business. I am now launcd forth without the Advantage of your late Observations and Experience on the Floor, and must trust to my little Stock. There are two Points which I have much at Heart and which will fall within the powers of your present important Mission. It is reported that a Quantity of Cloathing is arrived or expected from France:² you will see I feel the distressed Circumstances of our State Line. Let those worthy Men be provided for, as they are peculiarly destitute: and I have but feeble Hopes that any Measures in the power of our State will afford them seasonable Relief. My Feelings for them were painfully touched at a late Review. I did not indeed want such a Proof of their distress: Nor can you want arguments to awaken your Attention.

The other point requires some Investigation before there will be use in communicating it, which I this moment recollect.

Thus far I had written when I was honoured with your Favour of the 6t.³ I agree with you that the Detention of the party to the Senecas Country affords no prospect of the Success of their Visit. I never apprehended matters were sufficiently ripend for a peace with the Six nations. Present good is their only motive to any Action; & our Enemies have the means of gratifying them. Our Friend Col. Louis⁴ Remark to me upon this very Subject will be Justified. In substance it was this: The Six nations are fools—they will forget the Loss of their Country in contemplating the Bawbles & Trinkets bestowd upon them by the british Agents. The Oneidas claim our Protection and

our Promise of a Residence. As far as I can Judge the Upper Castle will be the most proper. It will be a great discouragement to the Western frontiers if they are drawn down to Fort Hunter & have the Apperance of abandoning the whole county of Tryon as too insecure for the Residence of even the Indians. How far there is the necessary Soil or Accommodation for these our distressed friends at the upper Castle, Or whether they will be contented with such an Assignment I cannot decide.

The Marquiss La fayette I presume is with you before this day. From Hints we may expect essential Support from our great Ally in the present Campaign. When we have more authentic Advice it will be worth communicating: but you may perhaps have speedier Information thro' the Marquiss.⁵

We have nothing from Charles Town since my last Letter to General Washington.⁶

I am pleasd to hear of Mrs. Schuyler's Intention to visit us: Among other Reasons that we shall have the pleasure & advantages of your Company & Council.

Your Publick Letter⁷ is referred to a Committee And nothing will be left undone to excite this Government to exert herself for the supply of the Army.

Adieu my dear Sir and believe me always, your affectionate & most Obedient Servt,

Jas. Duane

P.S. Present my respectful Compliments to the General, the Gentlemen of the Committee & of the family.

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ Duane had visited Washington at Morristown on his way to Philadelphia, while Schuyler had left Philadelphia for Morristown on April 25 as a member of the Committee at Headquarters, but the two had obviously missed one another.

² Duane had undoubtedly learned that France was sending aid to America from the despatches of William Carmichael at Madrid that were read in Congress on May 11, for which see *JCC*, 17:423, and Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody, this date, note 2.

³ See Schuyler to Duane, May 6, 1780.

⁴ Probably Col. Morgan Lewis, deputy quartermaster general at Albany, N.Y.

⁵ Duane's surmise was correct. For Schuyler's report on Lafayette's visit to camp, see Schuyler to Duane, May 13, 1780.

⁶ That is, Duane to Washington, May 9, 1780.

⁷ See Committee at Headquarters to President Huntington, May 10, 1780.

John Fell to William Livingston

Dear Sir,

Philada. May 12th. 1780

Being informd by Colo Lowry that the last letter I had the honour to adress to you was agreeable, it induces me to venture again, And

am now to inform you, that we have Received Letters from Mr Carmichael dated Feby 15th At Madrid, advising of the Polite and honorable Reception he met with in that City through the Interest of Monsr. Gerrard who introduced him to the Ministers &c. Also 2 Copies of Letters he wrote from Madrid to Mr. Jay at Cadiz giving him a most favorable account, and advising his setting off for Madrid immediately.¹

He also advises of 6 Sail of the Line and 4000 Troops from France distin'd for this Quarter.

I am with great Respect Your Excellencys Most Obedt. Humble Servt,
John Fell²

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ See the following entry, note 2.

² The previous day Fell had also lent his support to an appeal to Livingston for a safe conduct pass for one Capt. Jonathan F. Childs to return to Jamaica, which was the subject of a May 10 letter to Livingston from Alexander Stewart. Stewart had enlisted the support of Fell and Judge Thomas Inlay in Childs' behalf, and the two had appended their signatures—"Philada, Thursday Morning May 11th"—to Stewart's letter to Livingston. William Livingston Papers, NN.

Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Colonel

Philadelphia May [12] 1780¹

Yesterday a Letter from Mr. Carmichael dated in Feby at Madrid & inclosing Copies of two Letters from him to Mr. Jay at Cadiz, was received by Congress,² & the Gentleman who decyphered the latter informs me this Morning that they contain Advices of an annual Loan of three Million Livres, which the Court of France have agreed to supply to Congress during the War, & also of a Squadron of french Ships with a body of land Forces to operate in America; the latter I hope will be soon on the Coast, & employed to releive Charlestown. The Letters further say that Don Juan was instructed by the Court of Spain to make proposals to Congress for taking into Pay a Body of American Troops for the Reduction of the Floridas, but as Congress will probably send a Copy of the Letters to the General & it is expected that the Marques La Fayette is at Camp, You will undoubtedly be informed of the particulars. The Board of Treasury have issued Warrants on the Treasurer & at the same Time sent him private Instructions not to pay them: perceiving this, I applyed to them for an order to discharge your Warrant & another in favor of myself, but without Success. I shall return my Warrant & have it cancelled, but I think you may obtain the payment of yours by writing a Line to Congress & informing them that the Money is wanted here to discharge the Bills for Supplies procured for the Committee, in

doing which You were under the Necessity of advancing Your own Money. The Board of Treasury conduct strangely in this affair, for it would have been much more reputable to have informed the Members that they could not be supplied, than to have deceived them in the Manner mentioned.

I remain sir, with Esteem yours sincerely, E. Gerry

RC (NNPM: Signers of the Declaration of Independence).

¹ Although Gerry omitted the day from the dateline, it is clear from his opening sentence that he wrote it on May 12—the day after Congress received the “Feby” letter from William Carmichael which Gerry staes was received “Yesterday.”

² These consisted of Carmichael’s February 19 letter to Congress and copies of his letters to John Jay of February 15 and 18, 1780, which he had enclosed. See *JCC*, 17:423; *PCC*, item 88, fols. 47-56; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:496-97, 502-3, 507.

As proof of French friendship for the United States, Carmichael had reported to Jay on February 15, the king of France had agreed to provide annually “during the continuance of the war” three million livres “to enable us to purchase the necessaries for our army,” and in addition “to send a considerable marine and land force early in the year to America, to be at the disposition and under the direction of our general.”

Word that French troops and supplies were being sent to America was formally conveyed to Congress by the chevalier de La Luzerne on May 17, after he had received official despatches from the comte de Vergennes that were delivered to him by the marquis de Lafayette. See Samuel Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

Samuel Holten’s Dairy

[May 12–13, 1780]

12. Friday. I wrote to Mrs. Holten (no. 121) & to the Honl. Mr. Cushing at Boston.¹ I dined with the minisr. of France.

13. Saturday. I rode out with the President of Congress, Genl. Fulsom, & Mr. Ellery. We have no new intelligence this day.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Not found.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir Philada. 12 May 1780

I take the Liberty to enclose to your Excellency for the Inspection of the Legislature, Copy of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut for carrying into Execution the Recommendation of Congress contained in their Proceedings of 18th March last on the Subject of Finance,¹ marked No 1 and Extract of a Letter from a Member of Congress for the State of Massachusetts bay, lately

returned into that State, on the same Subject.² The Advices from other States speak a similar Language, as far as any Thing on the Subject has come to my Knowledge. The principal Objections to the Execution of this Plan are made in Pennsylvania, it is said, or rather in Philadelphia, for I believe the state in General are in Sentiment with it and good reason they have to be so; for it is no longer uncertain that in many Places to the Eastward, the Exchange between Paper and Specie was on the 18th of March at or below fourty, while in Pennsylvania it was sixty. But I have observed more than once that the Citizens here are apter to find Fault than they are to produce a good reason for doing it: the most sensible however do not gainsay.

I have formerly written pretty fully on this Subject to the Legislature,³ and only add, at this Time, that I believe a full adoption and steady adherence to the System will be attended with beneficial Effects. I ever did think it unexceptionable, but when I have seen Persons, who found most Fault with it, put upon shewing one preferable, I must confess it has not been done, and in the most Cases has not been attempted. It is universally acknowledged that Something decisive in the Matter of Finance is become indispensable, and it is a sound Maxim that in financing it is better to adhere uniformly to a Plan if it is not the best, and more good will be produced by it, than to unsettle and alter from Time to Time even if it is in some respects for the better. From all I have hitherto learned, I am inclined to think it will be agreeable to the People in general. Many it is to be confessed will suffer, but upon strict Investigation it will appear, that the Number is not so great as would at first be apprehended. Let it be considered we are in an unfortunate Predicament; let any Mode whatever be taken, many must suffer, I believe as few, if not fewer, in this way than any other.

It is with great regret I am constrained to mention that it has not been in the Power of the Delegates to procure any Means of answering the numerous Claims made upon the publick Departments by the Inhabitants of New Jersey. I hope it will be believed, for it is a Fact, that Congress, fully sensible of the Exertions and sufferings of the State, are forwardly disposed to do every Thing in their Power, but the Resources in Command are greatly inadequate. The present Operations of the War to the Southward, much more expensive than similar operations would be in any of these States, swallow up every Thing. Reluctant as I am to think of receiving the Certificates given in the Comissary's and Quarter Master's Departments in Taxes, I begin to think it will be impossible to avoid it. An additional Reason makes it more disagreeable than formerly, these Debts will swallow up the Taxes and the plenary Execution of the Plan of Finance will perhaps be postponed by it. I sent to the Legislature at the last Sitting a Copy of the Act of Assembly of the State of New York upon this Subject, that if it should be taken up a Precedent and Example might

be at Hand. I do not think however the Legislature will suffer this Matter, if they do adopt it, to interfere with the Scheme of Finance, for I am of Opinion that if an Option is given to the People to bring in the Continental Money and have it exchanged, they will voluntarily do it in many Cases, and this may in some Measure make up for the Deficiency of Money in Taxes. And should the whole Quota thus come in, the Taxes can still go on paid in Certificates or new Bills a fortieth Part, or Specie if any one chuses. The Representation and remonstrance from the State to Congress stands referred to the Board of Treasury and no Means will be left unessayed to endeavour to do Something towards discharging these Debts, but it is impossible to say with any Certainty what can be done. If any of them could be paid in Loan Office Certificates, they might be had as the whole Loan is not yet filled, though not a very large Sum remains.

Enclosed also is a Copy of the famous Virginia Land Office Act,⁴ which has been so offensive to Several of the States and which they have in some Measure suspended on the recommendation of Congress. I have only to observe at present that from the laudable Example which has been lately set by the State of New York,⁵ I have some Hopes Virginia will also show a Disposition to bound herself within a reasonable Extent leaving a large and extensive Country the Property of the Union.

I am, with great Respect, Your Excellency's obedt. Servant.

William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ See the *Public Records of Connecticut*, 2:516-21.

² Undoubtedly George Partridge's May 5 letter to Elbridge Gerry, for which see Samuel Holten to Partridge, May 16, 1780, note.

³ Not found, but for his intention to write such a letter, see Houston to the New Jersey General Assembly, March 18, 1780.

⁴ For information on this act, see Samuel Huntington to the States, October 30, 1779, note.

⁵ See Houston to Robert Morris, March 6, 1780, note 4.

John Morin Scott to George Clinton

Sir

Philadelphia May 12th. 1780

I did myself the Honor of writing to You some time since, of a date I do not now recollect,¹ as I had not Time to retain a Copy of the Letter. But it was so long ago that I have some Apprehension from not having been favored with your Answer, that either it or your Answer may have miscarried, which probably may also be the Case with the joint Letter from the Delegates which they had the Honor to write to You before.² Inshort except what has been handed to Us by official Information, I, for my own part, have not recd. a

Syllable of Information from any Gentleman in public Office in our State since my Arrival in this City.

The full Adoption of the plan of Finance by all the States is eagerly expected By Congress. Connecticut has actually complied & transmitted their Law on that Subject, as well as another concerning specific Supplies for the Army, to Congress; and we have abundant Evidence with respect to both, that the landed and trading Interest of that State will heartily conspire to give them the most vigorous Execution. We have the most flattering Assurances of a like Spirit operating in the Massachusetts Bay, and from these Considerations we hope that all New England will unite to carry both into full Effect. With respect to our State, its delegates, well & long convinced of the Zeal of our Legislature, which indeed is as well known & acknowledged by Congress & the Army, in the Common Cause, cannot entertain the least doubt that our State will exert itself in an effectual Compliance with both plans.

With respect to that on Finance, delicate as the Subject is, I conceive it too plain to require much Comment. I trust it will be sufficient to observe in general, that the plan turns upon this general principle, to wit; That the depreciation of our former Emissions moderately supposed on an Avarage at 40 for one, tho' in Exchange, at some places at 60 for one, & in purchases from 80 to 120 for one, rendered absolutely necessary a Call by Congress for a forty fold nominal Tax on the united States, at the least, in former Emissions, or in Specie, or the intended to be funded Emission at par. Congress therefore most clearly have not broke faith with the public. This Argument is equally applicable to both plans. If there is a Breach of Faith, the people at large have by depreciation broke faith with themselves. Congress have carefully avoided intermeddling with the Circulation of the old Medium in private Commerce, have not recommended even the compelling the payment of Taxes in it; but on the contrary have so framed their plan as to leave it at the Option of every Individual to pay his Taxes in it, in Specie, or in the new Emission. Nor have they meddled with the possible Surplus that may possibly remain on hand after the monthly Taxes shall have been brought in. By leaving this part of the Subject undefined, they leave every Man at full Liberty to speculate for himself. This Speculation in the dark, tho' it leaves him at perfect Liberty, with respect to one of the three Modes of paying in his Taxes, will probably have the wished for Effect of bringing in all the old Emissions.

Thus much as to the general principle upon which the plan of Finance is built. That on specific Supplies stands on the same principle, a Call on the States to furnish them without Regard to the Increase of prices, or what is tantamount the depreciation. With respect to the Avaraged rate of forty to one, an Avarage for obvious Reasons was necessary. By it some States will be gainers, other losers,

but this could not be avoided. The apparent Excellence and Necessity of this plan, which has already become the subject of Rage & disappointment to the Enemy, & however much it may be publicly reprobated & privately opposed by Speculators, will I am confident be eagerly embraced by the Wisdom of our Legislature. And I am sorry that my present public Engagement, forbids my bearing my Testimony in its Favor in my place in Senate. I had like to have forgot that the plan, together with the Resolution of Congress' for succoring the Army from the pernicious Effects of depreciation, has made that most distinguishedly virtuous part of the Community happy at least in prospect.

With respect to the Mode of funding the Quotas of the new Emission, I suppose different Modes will be adopted by the different States, suited to their different Circumstances. Some have not Common & perhaps no forfeited unappropriated Lands, and therefore will necessarily be driven to fund on Taxes appropriated & sufficiently productive—others, as we, may fund on both & make both Funds mutually subservient to the Alleviation and Security of each other. But this is a Subject that would require a larger Field for discussion than the Limits even of a long Letter will admit of. And tho' I would readily contribute my Mite on so important a Topic; yet I chearfully submit the Subject to the mature Consideration of the Legislature.

Should the plan take effect You will easily see, Sir, the Necessity of a tender Law. I have hastily drawn one this Morning. If I should have Time to make a fair Copy of it I will, which or the Draft shall be inclosed. You will remark it goes only to old Debts; and I think the Reasons are obvious why it should go no farther. That and this Letter You may communicate to the Members of the Legislature if You please. To all of whom permit Me to trouble You with my Compliments. I Sincerely wish their present Meeting will be attended with lasting good Effects. We have nothing lately from S.C. We think this a favorable Circumstance, notwithstanding the close Investiture of the Town. Nothing yet done about the Grants for want of a sufficient Number of disinterested States. That Impediment removed not a Moment shall be lost. I am, with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient Servant, Jno. Morin Scott

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980).

¹ Probably Scott's April 19, 1780, letter to Clinton.

² See New York Delegates to Clinton, March 21, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. 13 May 1780
Charlestown is at present so much an Object of Expectation and

Enquiry that I have thought a Plan of the Harbour and Environs would not be unacceptable. You will excuse the Roughness and Haste of the Sketch, it is however tolerably exact according to the Idea I have acquired both from Maps and Conversation with the Delegates and other Gentlemen from that Quarter.

I am told for I have not seen it, that there is a private Letter in Town as late as the 20th ult. which says all was then well and that the Communication with the Country was still open by Haddrell's Point.

I am your Excellency's most Obedt. Servt.

William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

William Churchill Houston to Philip Schuyler

Sir,

Philada. 13 May 1780

The Letter of the 10th inst from your Committee was read in Congress yesterday and referred. The Committee of whom I am one, was instructed, in the first Place, to confer with the President and Council of Pennsylvania; and we have this morning been discharging that Part of our Duty.¹ We have laid before them such Extracts of your letter as seemed most proper, and explained fully and urged pressingly the Objects of it as far as they concerned the State particularly. They have given us the most unreserved Assurances of their forward Exertions, but withal express great Doubts whether they will be effectual. The State, we are told, raises very little Beef, which is the Article to which, at present, you particularly point, and of this Letter, scarcely any is in any Sort of Preparation for Use. They have ordered out People to examine the Meadows and Farms round the City and in the adjacent Country. From thence if any Supply is derived, it will be more immediate than from the Counties mentioned by the Comissaries General in your Enclosure of the 9th, which will also we hope be next resorted to. The Want of Money is a great Obstacle, what they have been able to command having been required for other Purposes, and you will remember that Beef is not one of the Articles which they are to furnish by the requisition of the 25th of February last. They also mention, and with too much Justice, the vast Consumption of Provision and Forage in the State by Persons who are, or pretend to be, entitled to them as being in the publick Service. When I consider the Facts and Explanations which they state upon this Subject, and extend them even in a small Degree to the other States in the Union, I am constrained to say, what is every Day present to my Mind, that unless we can

alter and reform the modes of conducting the civil Departments of the Army, the Soldiery must separate or starve. You have not been so much in Congress lately as the other Gentlemen who are joined with you in Commission; they will witness that I have urgently and uniformly pressed this Consideration; and I now declare, and the Event will shew it, that there can be no Alternative, no Compromise, Persons in the Staff Departments, except in Cases where they are in Camp, and all those who are employed at different Places throughout the Country, must, where it is requisite and reasonable, have a proper Increase of Pay, and go to Market, to the Farmers or board for their Subsistence, and the Army have the Provisions, or the former use them and the latter go without. This Matter never can, it never will, be regulated by Halves. I have now sat six Months at the Treasury Board, and am not without some little Knowledge of our Finances and Resources. It is not impossible to find Money to support and prosecute the War on a Plan of wages or Contracts, but the United States at vendue would scarcely suffice to keep us moving on the Plans we have for two years past pursued. The Resources of no Country whatever are adequate to it. It is not worth while to struggle with Impossibilities, in which we must, in the Issue, both fail and be ruined into the Bargain. Including the Debts which we are told remain to be satisfied, upwards of two Hundred Millions are less than the Expenditures of the Departments of the Quarter Master and Commissary Generals for the two past years. Is Half this Sum a high Calculation for Provisions and Forage? The Truth is we have, comparatively speaking fed one Half of the Country and their Horses, and they wanton in Plenty though the Army should be pinched to the last Extremes of Distress; and this is the more mortifying as many of those who thus forestal the Soldiers of a Morsel of Bread, have the Reputation among the People in general of being some of the m[ost] useless and worthless of the Sons of Men.

Is it not possible to discontinue the Issues of rations altogether, and of every Kind, except in Camp, under which I comprehend all Detachments of the Army, all Posts where Men of Arms are, Garisons and Guards. Even if Waggoners, Boatmen and Persons daily attending in the Hospitals were included, we should not still be devoured as we now are. I do not pretend to be fully acquainted with the different Descriptions of Service where Subsistence is impracticable otherwise than from the publick Stores; but I see Rations issued to great Numbers of People who could, without the least Difficulty, supply themselves, and who could procure them at one Half the Price it costs the Publick to furnish them, computing all Expenses. We know that vast Quantities of Provisions and Forage have been and are purchased for the Army, but by the Issues to the Staff and it's endless appendages, they are dissipated and absorbed. Certainly it would be better to give such People, where they are necessary, any

advantages of Contract, or any Wages which Conscience or Custom would admit them to take, than feed them at the Expense of the Existence of the Army.

I observe that the Commissaries General in their Letter, or report, of the 9th inst to the Comander in Chief² mention a military Force as the most possible, if not the only means of producing a present Supply. The remark is just, and it may be that the Matter must issue here. The reflection which strikes me, is the shameful and untoward Appearance of the Thing; to take Provisions and Forage from the Inhabitants by military Contribution, not merely for the Army, this every good Citizen would approve where requisite, but for Persons whom we see at Home, some doing little, some Nothing, many their own private Business, and all of whom could be otherwise subsisted than from the publick Stores, these Things create a general Discontent among the People, totally discourage them from Industry and Exertion, and indeed the Absurdity and oppression of such Arrangements admit of no Excuse or Palliation. When His Excellency lately made a requisition to New Jersey, it was fully furnished, even to the Impoverishment of the State. Necessity, the Affection and respect of the People for their General, the Deserving and the Wants of the army conspired to forward it: but I did not converse with a single thinking Man who failed to make the remarks above stated, I did not receive a Letter in which they were not detailed. The People have not Ingenuity enough to discover why the Army should be starved that it's appendages may be fed; and indeed I believe we are the only Nation under Heaven who do these Things: I cannot recollect, nor have I ever heard that such was the Case when we formerly supported an Army in America.

In the Course of our Conference with the Council we have been led to learn that they have purchased and supplied a considerable Quantity of their Quota of Hay, and I am of Opinion the whole will be consumed without a Handful reaching the Army. Perhaps indeed it is too distant; but if I am not mistaken Supplies of this Article have heretofore gone up the Delaware from below this Town, and if they did not proceed to Morriston they furnished the Communication. I cannot learn that such has been the Case in the present Instance. That Part of the Letter from your Committee which respects Forage will be duly attended to, nor will there be much Inconvenience in an Addition to the Quota of Supplies required from any particular State when Circumstances require it; or in taking more of any one Article than the Quantity expressed in the requisition, in Lieu of a proportionate Quantity of another according to the stipulated Prices. Our Appointment leads us also to a Conference with the Assembly of Pennsylvania as soon as they make a House, and we shall report to Congress on the several Things you mention.

I cannot close this Letter with adverting to a further Reason which

increases my Anxiety about the main Subject of it. It has long been Matter of Speculation and Enquiry whether we might not in the Course of the coming Summer expect Succours on the Coast from abroad. The Possibility of this desirable Event makes the Subject of Supplies still more interesting. And when we consider our present Situation and that we have not the most flattering Prospects of Plenty the present Year it is certainly a Point of wisdom to save every Ounce that can be saved. Every Person supplied from the publick Stores consumes double the Quantity he would otherwise.

Your Letter mentions the distressed State of the Hospitals for Want of proper Stores. It is painful to say, I cannot be surprised at it. The prodigious numbers of idle Officers in that Department is a publick Scandal. There is, I am told no Hospital here, nor within twenty miles of the Town, and yet, I suppose, there are not less than a Score of Hospital Officers who doubtless are entitled to whatever they wish to draw from the Purveyour's Stores, as well as ordinary Rations. You must remember the Return made here last Winter before the Hospital was moved, when there were 50 Hospital officers and 133 Patients. It is not a Trifle will supply the Officers here, as many of them are high in Office, though I cannot hear of any Thing they do—and it is to be supposed the same Circumstances exist in other Places.

I have written my Sentiments freely to you, not officially as one of the Committee or on their Behalf. I suppose when they have expedited the Business you will hear from them. Your Committee, in my Apprehension, have Power to redress the Mischiefs to which I have pointed as far as they are redressible, by a proper Order for the Purpose. Difficulties will arise at first, but a little Resolution and Perseverance will reconcile them. We may as well be embarrassed in one Way as another.

15th. No Conveyance having offered, I am unhappy this Morning to inform you of an Accident which happened yesterday to Mr. Gouverneur Morris. He was riding out in a Phaeton, and the Horses taking a Fright ran away in the Street, struck the Carriage against a Post, broke it all to Pieces and in the Shock fractured Mr. Morris's Ankle to such a Degree that it became necessary to take off his Leg immediately. He bore the Operation with amazing Firmness. I have not seen him but am told this morning, that though his Fever is pretty high and he has a good Deal of Pain he is not in Danger of Life. The Bruises he received in the Fall are a great Addition to the principal Accident. There was no Person with him in the Carriage.³

I am, Sir, with great Regard, your obedt hble Servt,

William Ch Houston

¹ For Congress' official response to the May 10 letter of the Committee at Headquarters, see Samuel Huntington to the Committee, May 16, 1780.

² For Ephraim Blaine and Charles Stewart's May 9 letter to Washington, see Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, May 10, 1780, note.

³ For Morris' unfortunate accident, see Max M. Mintz, *Gouverneur Morris and the American Revolution* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970), pp. 139-41.

Philip Schuyler to James Duane

Dear Sir,

Morris town May 13^t 1780

The Marquis De La Fayette is so good as to take Charge of this; he will announce to Congress (If the dispatches he has forwarded from hence have not already done It) the Glorious exertion of the King his Master In our favor.¹ The Ample Succour that prince has sent, the terms on which, the Extensive power given us to direct the force of our Illustrious Ally, all combine to evince the most determined resolution In France effectually to Support us. But my Dear Sir what must be the feelings of this Generous Ally, what the reflections of every Observant power In Europe, If we do not Improve this Succour to the advantages It is capable of, If we do not In some quarter make such an Impression on the Enemy as to give imprection at home and abroad that Britain must of necessity relinquish the Contest, will It not too evidently Evince that we want the means of Exertion, or the wisdom to apply those Means. I think It will, and that our cause will be materially Injured and that of the enemy promoted. We shall lose friends, they will gain them. If these reflections have any weight It is Incumbent on us to Strain every nerve for a Spirited Co-operation, the Country is far, very far, from being destitute of the necessary Supplies, the means to draw them forth are also within our reach, but not In the ordinary way. If we trust to that, we shall Inevitably lose an Opportunity which may never again offer, and the reflections on which will most assuredly destroy the happiness of our lives, extraordinary Cases require Extraordinary remedies and exertions. A degree of Inertia pervades all popular bodies, they are unequal to that Celerity so requisite to the Effectual prosecution of Military Operations. Perhaps Congress labours In a greater degree under this misfortune than any popular body that ever existed at the head of an Empire, by Invariably holding up to the States that It had only a Recommendatory power, they have been taught to pay little attention to any decision of Congress, but It is for the weal of the Empire that they should resume, or even take new powers. The present Occasion will Justify It, and I most sincerely wish they may not lose the opportunity. A little reflection must convince every one that the more speedily (after the Arrival of the French force) we begin to operate, the Greater will be the prospect of Suc-

cess. To allow six weeks from this, for that arrival is giving Competent time. In that Six weeks how much is to be done, what a variety of necessarys to be procured, what force to be purchased. Indeed my friend so much must be done that Congress cannot In time make even the necessary resolutions unless they reduce them to one, which shall lodge dictatorial powers either In the Commander In Chief, or In him, Conjointly with a Small Committee of Congress.² Should the latter be adopted It will be necessary to Chuse men of Abilities and Consideration, but as that Cannot always be done and that there is a necessity of temporizing, would It not be well to put Elsworth on It, as so many Supplies must be drawn from and thro the state he represents;—I wish one of you to be another, and If possible Jones from Virginia, a third.

When Sir Harry Clinton receives the Account of the french Force coming to America he will In all probability raise the Siege of Charles Town If he has not taken It, In order to Concentre his force at N York or at any other point against which he may suppose our operations will be directed. He will do the Same If Charles Town is taken, only leaving a Garrison there. In either case It appears unnecessary that the Maryland troops Should prosecute their march to South Carolina as their Services will be lost, would It not therefore be well to hasten them back to this Quarter?

America is much Indebted to the Marquis for his exertions In Its favor. I hope Congress will feel It, and hasten that reward so pleasing to a Sensible mind.

Adieu my Dear Sir, I am Yours Sincerely, &c &c,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (NHi: Duane Papers). Endorsed by Duane: "General Schuyler, 13 May 1780. Answerd 21 May 1780."

¹ See Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody, May 12, 1780, note 2; and Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda), 3:11-13, 20-23.

² For this proposal to vest a "Small Committee of Congress" with "dictatorial powers," see the following entry.

Committee at Headquarters Memorandum

[May 14, 1780]¹

The Committe deeply impressed with the Necessity of the most immediate and Strenuous exertion to enable the Army to Take the field, to provide for its Support and for affording that Aid of Provision which the force of our Ally will probably Need on its arrival in these States—Wish the Gentleman going to Congress to State the Necessity of delegating to a Small Committe or other persons to be appointed, with advice of the Commander in Chief, Ample Powers

for Drawing forth the resources of the Country on this interesting occasion²—to make immediate applications to the Several States to repeal any Laws they may have made inhibiting Continental agents or officers from purchasing on this occasion to invest for a limited time, in Congress or Such persons as Congress may appoint Dictatorial Powers—to pass Laws authorizing Congress or Such persons to impress Carpenters, Caulkers, Teamsters, waggoners, batteau men, horses, Carriages, Vessels, provisions, materials for building and in General whatever may be Necessary to enable our Military force, and that of our ally to operate with Vigour, to intreat the Legislatures of the States to give the Strongest assurance to their Constituents that they will Cause payment to be made for Services done or articles furnished for the public use, if the Continental officers Should not be able to make immediate payment—to urge the States to hasten on their respective Quotas of Continental Troops—and to intrust the Supreme Executive Council of each State with full powers to draw forth such & so many Militia as may be deem'd Necessary to act in Conjunction with the Combined force of these States and France.³

(To get rice from Carolina.)

(The reduction of the Regts. absolutely necessary unless immediately filled up, being totally unfit to take the field in their present State.)

(The reduction attended with great loss to the U.S. as they can never be recovered.)

(If they are to be reduced a resolution should pass empowering the Committee to make provision for the officers.)

(The army may possibly be supplied from hand to mouth by the act of Congress, were it stationary, but was it obliged to move e contra—The army must go into State after State, in order to consume the provisions. The teams can't go through some States for want of forage. The nearer the supplies approach the army the more teams will be required. No two states can furnish sufficient for the purpose. Besides the expence is enormous. Were the whole collected they are insufficient.)

(Let the State Supplies go as far as they can, the deficiency must be supplied.)

MS (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hands of Nathaniel Peabody and John Mathews. Endorsed: "Memorandum Delivered to Congress, by Mr. Mathews, May 14. 1780."

¹ This memorandum was undoubtedly drafted on May 14, but it fits chronologically after the committee's report of May 15, which records the decision to send John Mathews "without loss of time to Congress." From the journal entries for May 19 and Mathews' motion of the 20th, it does not appear that the memorandum was actually intended for presentation to Congress, but only to serve as a guide for Mathews. See JCC, 17:438-40, 442.

² Although the committee's original charge of April 12 had been to reduce the number of regiments in the army and reform abuses in the staff departments, it had become quickly apparent to Washington and the committee that the condition of the army, the problems associated with state supply, and the promise of French support

pointed to stronger measures. Thus in his May 13 letter to James Duane, Philip Schuyler had called for lodging "dictatorial powers" in Washington or a "Small Committee," composed of "men of Abilities," specifically Oliver Ellsworth, Joseph Jones, and Duane or Robert R. Livingston. And in letters of May 14 to Jones and to Duane, Washington also found it of "absolute necessity that a *small* Committee should be immediately appointed to reside near head Quarters vested with all the powers which Congress have so far as respects the purpose of a full co-operation with the French fleet and Army on the *Continent*." As for members of such a committee, Washington felt that no one could be "more useful" than Schuyler. He also spoke favorably of Mathews' "understanding and integrity," but of Peabody he observed that "I should be willing to trust every thing to the goodness of [his] intentions, if I had not some doubts of his discretion." Finally, he favored the addition of Duane or Livingston to ensure a "well composed committee." See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:356-58. For the frustration of these efforts to shape the composition of the committee and to augment its powers, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, May 20; and Duane and Livingston's letters to Schuyler, May 21, 1780.

³ Remainder of MS in hand of Mathews.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

Madam

May 14th. 1780

The inclosed Papers will show you how the Business of Mr. A's Accts. has been conducted ——— with indecent Delay.¹ I presume the Treasury will draw a Bill of Exchange for the Balance. You had all the News respecting Mr. Adams which has yet to come to us. We hear some agreeable Things from Mr. Carmichael at Madrid where he was preparing for Mr. Jay's Reception who remained at Cadiz.²

It is not necessary for you to send any Extracts to Mr. A—— of what is here conveyed respecting his Accounts as I have already done it in Cyphers of which I shall make duplicates.³

I can only add to what I before said about Exchange, that you will certainly do well to get all the *continental* you can just at this Time. It cannot fail to be a Benefit.

Yrs. with Esteem,

JL

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:343.

¹ For the "inclosed Papers," consisting of the relevant congressional resolves and report on John Adams' accounts, see *ibid.*, pp. 343-46.

² For Carmichael's "agreeable" reports concerning French aid to America, see Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody, May 12, 1780, note 2.

³ See Lovell to John Adams, May 4, 1780.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir,

May 14th 1780

I have recd. yours of the 7th¹ and have made the Enquiry you

desired respecting the Syringe. Mr. Charter has been sick, but hopes to finish the Work in a day or two.

We have had Letters from Mr. Carmichael at Madrid Feb. 19th. The Intelligence he gives is agreeable so far as it goes but it chiefly relates to Florida. France will furnish us with an annual Sum of 3,000,000 Livrs. during the War to enable us to purchase necessities.²

Nothing can exceed our Poverty. I have not been able to get a Dollar of hard from Boston nor of Soft from the continental Treasury though I have had a Warrant on the Treasurer many days.

I recd. the inclosed Letter for you by Brown the Express.³

Your joint Information of the 10th to Congress is distressing.⁴ It has been just committed to Mr. Houston, Mr. Ellsworth & Mr. Mulenberg who are to confer with the Council & Assembly and to correspond with you. Mr. Partridge got to Boston in 12 days having laid still 3 of them. Our State were in favor of the Proceedings of Congress respectg the Money.

I have Nothing material to communicate respecting the *Nonesuch* or the *Stiffnibbed Pen*.

Yours affectionately

J L

RC (NhHi: Nathaniel Peabody Papers).

¹ Not found; but in a brief May 16 letter Lovell informed Peabody that "I send you what you wrote for to Mrs Clarke to whom I shall pay 20 Dollrs on yr account.

"I need not say any Thing of foreign News as you have had the Marqs de Fayette with you.

"Every Thing looks well from *abroad*; but, Good Lord! how is it at Home? I shall miss the post if I do not close." *N.H. State Papers*, 17:391.

² Lovell wrote "*Secret*" in the margin alongside this paragraph.

³ Perhaps Samuel Livermore's April 29, 1780, letter to Peabody, which Lovell endorsed and forwarded. See *N.H. State Papers*, 17:390-91.

⁴ See Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, May 10, 1780.

Thomas Burke to Charles Pettit

Monday morning [May 15, 1780]¹

Mr. Burke presents his Compliments to Mr. Pettit informs him that he draughted the letter of the 9th Instant from the Board of Treasury, and was one of the board by whom it was unanimously approved. Mr Burke never makes the Privilege of Office a cover for any language & usually speaks his sense in plain direct terms—regardless of consequences, which he wishes Mr. Pettit to be assured he is on this occasion.

Tr (MiU-C: Nathanael Greene Papers). In the hand of Charles Pettit.

¹ This document, undoubtedly written by Burke on "Monday morning," May 15, reflects the difficult and sometimes bitter relationship that had developed in 1780

between the quartermaster department and the Board of Treasury, of which Burke was a member. In this instance, assistant quartermaster general Charles Pettit had suggested to the Board of War on April 28 that the department's creditors should be reimbursed as soon as possible with Continental loan office certificates to restore faith in the public credit. The letter was forwarded to Congress and referred to the Board of Treasury on May 4. *JCC*, 16:422; and *PCC*, item 147, 4:351-53. Because of this request, Pettit was drawn, as he explained to Nathanael Greene in a letter of May 18, "into a most extraordinary and perplexing correspondence with the Board of treasury, which has shattered my Philosophy more than anything I have met with." Greene Papers, MiU-C. Pettit sent to Greene copies of seven items, including this document, that he and the board had exchanged between May 8 and 16. Copies of most of these may be found in the papers relating to Congress' investigation of the treasury offices in 1780-81. See *PCC*, item 62, especially fols. 355-71. For the examination of Pettit's correspondence in the context of this investigation, see the Treasury Inquiry Committee Minutes, October 9, 1780, note 6. The board first asked Pettit for a listing of the department's debts. Pettit demurred, maintaining that he needed assurance that his creditors would receive loan office certificates before he could undertake the laborious task of compiling such a list, totalling millions of dollars. In its letter of May 9, drafted by Burke according to his testimony above, the board expressed astonishment that "Debts could exist against the Quarter Masters Department of which no returns could be made," and then demanded a full accounting before any funds could be issued. In his reply of May 13, to which Burke is here responding, Pettit suggested that the board had "parted from the line of propriety" by making "the privilege of Office, a covering for injurious Language." Despite this apparent impasse between Pettit and Board of Treasury personnel, Congress issued several warrants in Pettit's name or at his request during the ensuing months. He was reelected to his post on July 25. See *JCC*, 17:474, 496, 525-26, 532, 552-53, 576, 614-15, 644, 646-47, 649-50, 653, 663, 665.

Committee at Headquarters Report

In Committe of Congress
Morris Town 15th May 1780.

The General having advised the Committe That the Marquis De La Fayette had brought dispatches, from the Court of Versailles, for Congress; That he had Communicated in General Terms the favourable disposition of the King his Master, to the United States; That his Majesty had ordered a respectable Naval and Land force to this Country to cooperate with the Armies of the United States against the Common Enemy.

The General observed that he Thought it necessary to make this Communication to the Committe to enable them to Judge of the propriety of Attending to this Event in the arrangement they had under Consideration.

Whereupon the Committe are Unanimously of opinion That it will not be expedient finally to decide on the arrangements Now before them for Conducting the Quarter Master, & Commissary Generals departments untill the further pleasure of Congress can be Obtained; The Committe being fully Convinced that to Depend entirely on the

States for *effectual* Supplies under the Act of Congress of the 25th of Feby last would be hazarding too much, as a failure in those Supplies would expose us to the disgrace & mortification of not being able to improve the Generous Succour of our ally to all the advantages it is Capable of—And that it therefore Seems necessary Those departments Should be So arranged as to enable the officers thereof to make purchases for large additional Supplies for the Army. That one of the Committe Should immediately repair to Congress, personally to State their Ideas on the Subject, and to obtain their pleasure in the premises. And for which purpose Mathews proceed, without loss of time to Congress.¹

Ph. Schuyler

Jno Mathews

Nathl Peabody²

MS (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Peabody and signed by Peabody, Mathews, and Schuyler.

¹ For the guidelines Mathews was to follow in making his presentation to Congress, see Committee at Headquarters Memorandum, May 14, 1780.

² This report was delivered to Congress on May 17. For the decisions reached in response to the despatches brought by Lafayette from France, see Samuel Huntington to Certain States, May 19; Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24; and the first letter of the Committee at Headquarters to the States, May 25, 1780.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[May 15, 1780]

15. Monday. I received a letter from Doctr. Gordon, Dr. Warren, & the Hone. Mr. Wood. Congress recd. a packet from France, by the Marquis de la Fayette; agreeable intelligence.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ The "packet from France" contained several letters to Congress from John Adams, and single letters from Francis Dana, and Benjamin Franklin. See *JCC*, 17:428. Adams' letters, dated December 11, 16, 1779, January 16, February 15, 17, 19, 20, 25, 27, 29, and March 4, 1780, are in PCC, item 84, 1:227-29, 231-39, 243-49, 263-69, 281-82, 291-97, 303-36; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:422-23, 427-28, 457-62, 494-95, 499, 504-9, 519, 524-27, 532-34. Franklin's letter of March 4, 1780, is in PCC, item 82, 1:199-208, and Wharton, 3:534-37; and Dana's letter of February 18, 1780, is in PCC, item 89, fols. 498-99

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

Dear Sir;

Morris Town, May 15th 1780.

The Marquis de la Fayette, of whose arrival your Excellency has doubtless been Informed, left us yesterday with dispatches from the Court of Versailles for Congress, and for the Chevalier De La Luz-

erne; whilst here the Marquis detailed the Contents of the dispatches, of which he was fully advised, to a select few. They evince the most decided determination on the part of France to Support us thro the Contest, and an event will soon take place which will announce to all Europe and America that his most Christian Majesty will not confine himself to mere professions of amity to us or to pecuniary aids.

I am not at present permitted to be more explicit;¹ but a common friend of ours² has wished me to Communicate thus much, with the Express view that the legislature may not seperate until they hear from Congress on the Subject I have alluded to. If, therefore, there should be a disposition to a speedy close of the session, it may perhaps be proper to signify that I consider it a duty incumbent on me as their servant in Congress, to intreat the legislature may not rise, as there will most assuredly be a necessity of reconvening them at an early day.

Mr. Livingston has been here and proposed to do himself the honor to wait on the legislature, but was prevailed on, to return to Congress to afford his aid on the important business which will immediately claim the attention of that body;³ he has intreated me to mention this to your Excellency that the legislature may be advised of it; altho I am closely engaged with the committee appointed to the arrangement of the Staff departments. Yet if your Excellency and the legislature shall deem my presence necessary at Kingston for the purpose of giving any information they may require, I shall with great alacrity attend. I am, Dear Sir, with every sentiment of Esteem & affection your Excellency's most obedient Humble Servant,

Ph: Schuyler.

[P.S.] Charlestown safe on the 1st Instant; little Impression made by the Enemy. If it is not reduced before this day, there are reasons to believe it will not be at all.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:708-10.

¹ See Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody, May 12, 1780.

² Probably George Washington, who wrote to Clinton in this same vein on May 18. See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:383-84.

³ Robert R. Livingston had been prevailed upon to return to Congress to help develop support for overhauling the system for feeding the Continental Army and for the Committee at Headquarters' proposal to lodge "dictatorial powers" in the hands of Washington or a small committee to insure effective support for the joint Franco-American armies during the coming campaign. See also the following entry; and Livingston to Schuyler, May 21, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to James Duane

Dear Sir

Morris town May 15th 1780

In the letter which I did myself the pleasure to adress you by the

Marquis, I mentioned the necessity of remanding the Troops lately order'd to South Carolina under General De Kalb;¹ I have since submitted my reasoning on the subject to the General² and he is perfectly In sentiment with me on the propriety of It, altho he does not chuse to request It of Congress as they were ordered thither by that body. It is however possible that Gentlemen may differ in opinion with us on the subject unless the reasons which appear to militate in favor of the recall occur to them or are detailed. I shall therefore take the Liberty to adduce them to you.

If Charles town should be In possession of the Enemy, when Sir Harry Clinton receives advise of the Intended reinforcement from France, he will probably Immediately Embark for New York, in order If possible to save that place, which he will have a good chance of doing. If he concentrates his force there, leaving the smallest Garrison possible for the defence of Charles town, In this case the Militia of the Country will suffice to protect the rest of the state, and more they cannot do, If even Joined by De Kalb for no force whatever can recover the town, until cannons, and every requisite for a Siege, can be procured, and such a supply they cannot expect this season from us. But should the town not be reduced when the Account of the French reinforcement arrives, and should Sir Harry persevere, not only to reduce the town, but having done that, to attempt a Conquest of the Intire State (which by the by would be a kind of madness we should think him Incapable of) the reinforcements under De Kalb will not be able to prevent him and therefore ought not to be lost between the two points, which I apprehend they will be If they proceed and be lost to both.

But should Sir Harry, on being advised of the Intended French reinforcement raise the Seige, and return to New York for the defence of that port, then General Lincoln will be safe, and In sufficient force to dislodge the Enemy from Georgia should any be left there, hence then There will be no necessity for De Kalbs proceeding, on the Contrary, It will be evidently necessary that the force under Gen. Washington should be Increased as much as possible to afford a probable prospect of Success, against an Enemy in such Capital force as the British will be at New York when Joined by the troops from Carolina; If our operations should be formed against that City; thus in every point of view It seems necessary that De Kalb should be recalled, at least to Cheasapeak Bay, from whence If Sir Harry should remain In Carolina and our operations be directed to that Quarter, they may be Conveyed thither In the fleet, & If against New York they will be at hand to Join this Army.

As It seems Impossible to draw forth the necessary supplies On the present Occasion In the ordinary way, and that no alternative offers but by applying to the States to support your officers, would It not be proper, to request the legislatures now Convened to con-

tinue sittings, and to request those that are not assembled to do so, without delay, that such applications as Congress may deem necessary to make may be laid before them and their decision obtained the soonest possible?

Adieu my friend, remember that much is to be done and very little time allowed us to do It in.

I am affectionately and Sincerely Yours &c &c,

Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] In the Committees letter of the 10th Instant to Congress, a Glance was thrown against the System of State Supplies. I wished to have attacked It in force, to have Induced Congress to a reconsideration of the Subject, persuaded that If some attention was bestowed on It, and If reduced to Calculation, It would be found productive of an expence far, very far beyond what a well directed purchasing System would Induce, and after all the Supplies would never be Collected In greater quantities under that System than barely to Support the army from day to day.³ It is late and Mr Mathews goes of early in the morning⁴ otherwise I would enter into a minute State of the Objections the new System is liable to, and evince by Calculation that its expence will be enormous. Adieu. Yours &c.

P Schuyler

RC (NjMoHP: Park Collection).

¹ The troops under baron de Kalb's command were not recalled from their march to South Carolina, and the general was later killed at the battle of Camden.

² That is, General Washington.

³ Schuyler's opposition to "the System of State Supplies" reflected his disillusionment with Congress' February 25 decision to rely on "in kind requisitions" from the states in consequence of the collapse of the Continental dollar. This abandonment of congressional responsibility for feeding the army had had the disastrous result of leaving Washington's troops at the mercy of the states and relegating the staff departments to mere delivery and bookkeeping functions. Although the defects in the system were already widely perceived, few persons outside the army were yet prepared to discard Congress' experiment, and even the Committee at Headquarters in its "Glance" against the system on May 10 focused on the states' inability to transport their quotas to Washington's magazines rather than on the principle of relying directly upon the states. For a critique of "the system of specific supplies" and "the states' assumption of responsibility for feeding the army," see E. Wayne Carp, *To Starve the Army at Pleasure: Continental Army Administration and American Political Culture, 1775-1783* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984), pp. 176-87.

⁴ John Mathews was returning to Congress to obtain a modification of the instructions of the Committee at Headquarters and an enlargement of its authority. See Committee at Headquarters' Memorandum, May 14, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir

Morristown May 16th. 1780

Agreeable to the Instructions of Congress the Committee has con-

sulted the Commander in chief about the propriety of reducing the number of Regiments, and in conjunction with his Excellency fully discussed the matter, Considered It under a variety of views and Concluded that no Capital reduction could be adopted without hazard at this Conjunction for altho a very Considerable diminution of the public expence would attend a reduction even If the Officers retired on full pay during the war, and were to participate in every advantage And Emolument after It with those remaining in Actual Service; And Altho a variety of Embarrasment In the formation of the Division, Brigades &c &c and in the discipline of the Army result from the paucity of the numbers which Compose the Several Corps; Yet reasons exist which forcibly militate against the reduction and which arise from the following facts—The certainty that the Campaign will be opened, and the Army take the field, before the necessary arrangements Incident on a reduction can possibly be Effected—The particular Conjunction of the day—The aversion which the Soldiery in general entertain to a change of Officers—The personal Attachments which Induced many to Engage In the service during the war or which has been acquired since they have been In It—The necessity of Attending to, and temporizing with the feelings of Men whose virture is put to the Severest tryal by the distresses they experience from a Combination of Almost every specie of hardship; A Consideration of these facts has led the Committee to determine not to Attempt a present reduction of more than the 5th New York, and She[r]burns and Livingstons Regiments, and we do ourselves the honor to Inclose Your Excellency Copy of our resolutions, for the reduction of these Corps.¹ it appears Improper to publish them here until Congress has decided on what terms the reduced officers are to retire from the service which decision we Intreat to be favored with as soon as may be.

In considering the Subject we have Stated It became necessary to Examine Minutely the returns of the Army In detail And we have the mortification to Observe that some Companies are reduced to four rank and file—That a Majority of the Residue do not exceed fifteen—That the number of recruits which have Joined towards compleating the quotas called for by the act of Congress of the 9th February last are very Inconsiderable Indeed—That Should the deficiencies called for by that act be furnished the army would Still be much weaker than It was Intended to be at that time, as many have been discharged and great disertions have taken place Since—That some states appear to have considered as part of their quota Citizens employed In the various Staff departments of the Army, and who were never engaged either as soldiers or Even as regimented or Inlisted artificers During the war—That from Information which the Committee has Obtained, It appears the mode adopted by several of the States, perhaps by all, to Comply with the requisition of Con-

gress of the 9th of February last, does not afford the most distant prospect that the Army will be reinforced with one quarter part of the Compliment deficient, and In all probability not even with that Small portion until towards the End of the Campaign. As from this state of facts the necessity of Immediate measures for a Speedy and Effectual augmentation of the army appears evident, the Committee conceived It a duty, especially engaged as the Attention of Congress now is with other very Interesting and Important Matter, that the deficiency In Each line of the Army should be stated In a return, which with such remarks as seemed requisite, we have the honor to Inclose;² And that we should take the liberty to propose to Congress a set of resolutions³ Calculated to draw from the States a Temporary supply of men to Compleat the Establishment proposed in February last, As Inlistments or drafts for the War, cannot possibly take place with Sufficient Celerity to be of any Service in the Operations of the present Campaign, And that It would be hazarding too much to rely altogether on aids from the Militia, as experience has evinced It too precarious a dependance especially for offensive operations in as much as they frequently retire from the field in such Critical Con-junctures & when their Continuance would be of the highest Importance.⁴

We have the honor to be with Great respect, Your Excellency's
Most Obedient, Humble Servants,

Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

ENCLOSURE ("No. 3")

In Committee of Congress. Morris Town May 19th. 1780⁵

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Committee, That the fifth Regiment in the Newyork line lately Commanded by Colonel De Bois Should be reduced And the Non Commissioned officers and privates be annexed to, and incorporated with Such other Regiments in that line as the Commander in Chief Shall Judge proper.

Resolved that the Regiments now Commanded by Colonel James Livingston, and by Colo. ——— Shelburne,⁶ be reduced, And that the Non Commissioned officers & privates of both Said Regiments be annexed to and incorporated with Such other Corps as the Commander in Chief Shall Think proper.

The Committee having consulted with the Commander in Chief respecting the allowances that ought to be made to the officers of the Regiments proposed to be reduced, and the Terms on which they ought to retire from the Service—beg leave to Suggest to Congress as their Opinion That it will be most for the Honr. of the United States, and the Satisfaction of the Army in General, That the officers of all Regiments to be reduced should be Considered as disengaged

from the Army, and liable only to be Calld upon in future in Common with other Citizens, And retire on full pay during the War And entitled to all Emoluments after that period, that are held up by any resolutions of Congress to Officers who Should Continue to Serve in the Army during the War.

All which is Humbly Submitted by, Ph. Schuyler
 Nathl Peabody

E N C L O S U R E ("No. 4")

Resolved That the executive powers of the States be severally required to forward to the Army with all possible dispatch, all recruits already raised towards compleating the Quotas assessed to them respectively by the Act of Congress of the 9th day of February last.

Resolved that the states be severally required to Compleat said quotas by drafts from the Militia to Serve in the Continental Army until the last day of December next Inclusive unless sooner discharged, On the Estimates of deficiency transmitted them by the Commander in chief.

Resolved that the Commander in chief transmit to the executive of the states respectively, returns of all additional deficiencies which have arisen from Casualties since the Estimates mentioned In the preceeding resolution.

Resolved that so much of such additional deficiency as is occasioned by death, desertion or discharge of men who were engaged to Serve beyond the last day of September next, or during the war; be made good by the States in the Manner directed by the Second resolution.

Resolved that the drafts directed to be made by these Resolutions be delivered on or before the 20th of June next, to the Inspector General or any of his deputies or assistants with the Army or with any detachment thereof, to be annexed to And Incorporated with the line of the States respectively, In such Manner as the Commander In chief Shall direct.

Resolved That the Inspector General make Returns to the board of war, and to the Commander In chief from time to time Of all men received by himself or any of his deputies or assistants in virtue of the resolutions of the 9th of February last, and of these; noting the States from whom the men are received, And distinguishing those engaged to Serve during the war, from those engaged to Serve to the last day of December next Inclusive.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Schuyler and signed by Schuyler and Peabody. Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "A Letter from the comee. at headquarters, May 16, 1780, Read 22. Enclosed, 1. Return of the Army, 2. Remarks on the return, 3. Resol. for reducing certain regts., 4. Res. for recruiting the army." Enclosures: MS (DNA: PCC, item 39).

For enclosures nos. 1 and 2, which are in a format unsuited for printing, see note

2 below. Enclosure no. 3, written by Peabody, and signed by Peabody and Schuyler, is endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Proceedings of Comee at Headquarters for reducing certain regimts, read May 22. 1780. Enclosed in letter of 16 May, N 3." Enclosure no. 4, in the hand of Philip Schuyler, is endorsed by Schuyler "Resolutions proposed for the consideration of Congress," and by Charles Thomson "by the comee. at head quarters, Read May 22. 1780. Enclosed in letter May 16. N 4."

¹ See enclosure, "No. 3."

² For this elaborate "return," the enclosure designated "1" by Secretary Thomson, see PCC, item 39, 3:339-41. It is entitled "Return of the Non Commission'd Officers & Privates engaged to serve to the 29th of September inclusive, and to fixed periods beyond the last day of September next, And During the War, distinguishing those serving in the State Lines—In the Additional Corps of Infantry—The Corps of Cavalry, The Corps of Artillery and the Artificers engaged to serve during the war. Extracted from returns made previous to the first of January last, together with a Return of the number of Men which have died, deserted &c. since." The committee's "remarks" on the return were drafted by Schuyler, for which see PCC, item 39, 2:57. His finished original, which was the second document enclosed with this letter, was ordered by Congress to be returned to the committee and was given to John Mathews. See *ibid.*, 1:32-33, and 3:347-51. In the closing paragraph of their remarks, the committee concluded that it was proper "to press the States In the first Instance for the deficiencies called for by the Commander in Chief in his Circular Letter Subsequent to the Act of Congress of the 9th February last, and for such additional Numbers as he shall signify."

³ See enclosure, "No. 4."

⁴ For Congress' decision that it was "not expedient at present to make any partial Reduction in the Army," see Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, May 31, 1780.

⁵ Although dated by Peabody "May 19th," this document was undoubtedly composed on May 16. Schuyler's draft of it is dated "May 16th 1780" and is endorsed "Report of the Committee for reducing Colo.s Dubois, Sherburn & Livingstons Regts, sent to Congress, May 16, 1780." PCC, item 39, 2:98.

⁶ That is, Henry Sherburne.

William Ellery to William Greene

Sir, Philadelphia May 16th. 1780

Mr. Collins who left this place last week and it is said is gone home will acquaint your Excellency with the occurrences between our last and his departure.¹

Since that time we have received letters from Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams by the Marquis De Le Fayette bearing date from about the middle of February to the first of March,² and containing in substance the following intelligence.

The Court of London hath earnestly applied to the Court of Russia for assistance, and was absolutely refused. A hearty friendship subsists between the latter and the Court of France. The Dutch entertain more favorable sentiments of us than formerly, the Stadtholder, who hath been against us, acknowledged he hath been deceived, and is for furnishing unlimited convoys to their trade. Ireland is not satisfied. Scotland is uneasy at the countenance given to the roman

catholic religion. Associations and Committees of Correspondence those terrible engines to despots have alarmed the ministry of Great Britain. France seems determined to preserve a decided naval superiority over the British in the American Seas. More ships and troops are coming out; and perhaps some of them may come to our immediate assistance. The success of the british fleet off Gibraltar hath flushed the spirits of our enemies, but not at all disheartned the Spaniard. Capt. Jones in the *Alliance* is order'd to America. The three ships she captured, and which were obliged to put into Denmark have been order'd by its King to be deliver'd up to the British Consul against this conduct. Dr. Franklin hath remonstrated and demanded a restoration of the prizes or their value. What effect his memorial will have is uncertain. Three millions of livres are to be advanced annually by France to assist us in procuring cloathing &c for the army. These are the principal articles I can recollect.

As my constituents have thought fit to remove me I could wish to return home as soon as possible,³ and therefore hope that one of the newly appointed delegates may be directed to set out for this place as soon as may be convenient. It will be absolutely necessary in order to my return, that I should be furnished with a considerable sum of money to enable me to pay my debts, to purchase a horse, one of mine having died, and to bear my expences. There is no money in the Treasury. I have no acquaintance that can supply me; and I very much question whether twenty thousand dollars could be procured here, money is so scarce and the demand for it so great, even upon the credit of the State if I were authorized to offer it. Therefore permit me to urge that that sum be sent to me by the first delegate; otherwise I may be obliged to continue here months at the expence of the State without having it in my power to do it any service.

I am with the highest sentiments of respect, Your Excellency's most obedt. Servt.

William Ellery

P.S. The enemy at N. York are in great confusion it is said from an expectation of a visit from France. No late news from Charles town.

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ John Collins and Ellery had written to Greene on May 2 and Collins obtained a leave of absence from Congress on May 10. *JCC*, 17:422.

² See Samuel Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note.

³ Ellery had been elected for a one year term on May 5, 1779, but since the credentials of the Rhode Island delegates provided that their appointment would continue "until they or either of them shall be superseded, and another or others shall appear to take his or their place," the question of his eligibility to retain his seat in Congress did not arise until one of his successors, Ezekiel Cornell, arrived in Philadelphia. Cornell took his seat on Monday June 5; Ellery last attended Congress on Friday June 2. See *JCC*, 14:725, 17:484-85.

Ellery did not return home at that time, however, for almost immediately after Cornell's arrival Ellery was nominated a commissioner of the Board of Admiralty, a position to which he was elected on June 23 and continued to hold for slightly over

one year. See *JCC*, 17:490, 555, 558; and William M. Fowler, *William Ellery: A Rhode Island Politico and Lord of Admiralty* (Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1973), pp. 59-68.

Elbridge Gerry to John Wendell

Dear sir,

Philadelphia 16th May 1780

Your Sentiments respecting the late Plan of Finance, are similar to the Ideas which I had formed of it before the Measure was adopted by Congress, but if the States in general or the Inhabitants of particular States should be divided on the Policy of carrying it into Effect, it may be attended with the most injurious Consequences to the publick Credit, & depreciate if not destroy the Currency of future Emissions. This is not all; it may so weaken the Confidence of the people in Government, as to prevent their obtaining Supplies either by Loans or Taxes adequate to the Expences of the War, & thus serve to protract it & dispose the people to a disadvantageous Peace, whereas by a vigorous Support of the Measure, the temporary Inconveniences which have resulted thereupon & cannot now be remedied, will be forgot & amply recompensed by the Reduction of the national Debt & the easy Taxes consequent to the Establishment of Peace. The principal objection which I had to the plan was its Inconsistency with the Faith of the publick pledged by Congress, but Embarrassment in the Execution of their Resolves will not serve to remedy but may greatly increase the Evil.

The Marquis de la Fayette arrived in this City the last Evening, & I had the Pleasure of a Visit from him with Letters from our Friends Mr Adams & Mr Dana:¹ they are agreeably situated in Paris waiting the Events of War to produce an alteration in the mad Disposition of the Ministry of G Britain, which nothing but misfortune can alter. France are making great Exertions in our Favour, & are determined to preserve a Superiority at Sea. Britain has no Prospect of an Alliance with Russia or any other Power, but has succeeded in obtaining Supplies of Money for the ensuing Campaign. The Irish Nation are firm in their Resolutions to be independent of the *parliament of G Britain* & the County Meetings & Committees of Correspondence are carrying on the good Work of reducing the Power of the Crown, whilst the King is manifesting his Resentment to these proceedings by dismissing his County Lieutenants & such other officers as countenance them. Holland are extremely incensed at the Capture of their Ships, & are no Ways disposed to comply with the Requisitions of Sir Joseph York for furnishing Britain with a naval Force. On the whole, Things wear a favorable aspect in Europe & the West Indies, & We want but little Animation to extend it to America. Charlestown was safe on the 20th of April, but General Lincoln informed the

Governor of Virginia, that Troops were wanted. Information, (if it can be obtained) previous to my sealing the Letter—you will perceive by an Advertisement of the Board of Treasury that they are taking Measures to bring delinquents to a speedy Settlement. I have only Time to assure you of my sincere Regards for yourself & Family & that I remain your Friend & hum ser,

E Gerry

RC (MA).

¹ See Samuel Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note. John Adams' recent letters from France were also the subject of a letter of this date from Gerry to Abigail Adams, for which see Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:350-51.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia May 16th. 1780.

I have the honor of enclosing a number of Laws from the state of Pennsylvania,¹ and I have received their late minutes, which I shall forward by the next opportunity, and you will perceive that they are desirous of the like in return.

Yesterday the dispatches bro't by the Marquis were received by Congress,² they contain intelligence to about the 4th of March, & it is considered here as being much in our favor; I think there wou'd be some impropriety in being very particular, if I was under no restraint, but this you may be assured of, that our good & great ally is exerting himself in our favor, & I think will be likely *soon* to afford us great relief; Our enemies at New York, I understand are greatly alarmed, I suppose they have *lately* heard that they have no addition of allies &c, &c. The Marquis's first arrival being in Boston, and I have heard had a conference with the Honorable assembly, therefore, I suppose they may have been informed of many matters of importance which has not come to my knowledge, as I have not yet seen him.

We have intelligence from Madrid as late as the 15th of February, by which we understand that things were going on there agreeably.

The last intelligence from Charlestown was about the middle of April, which no doubt will come to hand before this.

Yesterday the Delegates from the state of Georgia attended & took their seats in Congress.

I have the Honor to be with great respect, Sir, your most obedient servant;

S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ Holten probably enclosed a copy of *Laws Enacted in the Second Sitting of the Fourth General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . .* (Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1780). See Evans, *Am. Bibliography*, no. 16,930.

² For the despatches from France delivered by the marquis de Lafayette, see Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note.

Samuel Holten to George Partridge

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia May 16th. 1780.

Your favor of the 26th ulto. came to hand a few days Since, & please to accept my thanks for the intelligence therein contained;¹ When I recd. it, I was in Congress, & I asked leave to read such parts as respected public affairs, which was granted & it was recd very agreeably by the House, & I have had opportunity to mention the same to Mesrs Luzerne & Marboi & they appeared to receive much satisfaction upon hearing of the exertions of the state of Massachusetts.

I am sorry to hear the money has sunk so low in Boston of late, it is not the case here, (as I am informd) but the contrary, for every person within my knowledge appears to want money more than any thing else.

We have nothing from Charlestown Since about the middle of April, the substance of which has been made public in the prints.

Missrs Schuyler, Mathews & Peabody are now at Headquarters, with a large commission, which I hope will be executed so as to prevent some of the expences in the great departments; the wants of the army are many & their complaints great but it is not in the power of Congress to releive them, they do & must depend upon the exertions of the several states.

As to foreign intelligence I beg leave to refer you to my letter to the President of the Council of this date.

Mr. Lovell has been so kind as to favor me with the perusal of your letter to him of the 1st instt., & I observed your concern about the new Bills; But you may be assured that if the state complies with the recommendations of Congress & send forward their Acts they will not have to wait for the new bills, for I understand that they are nearly if not quite ready at this time.

I had like to have forgot mentioning that last Sunday morning Governr Morris got into his carriage at the city tavern to ride out & his horses took fright & he endeavouring to git out shattered one of his legs to pieces so that it was immediately taken of.

I am, my dear Sir, with sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Partridge's "intelligence" can only be conjectured, because his April 26 letter to Holten has not been found, but he probably included a report on Massachusetts' response to Congress' fiscal resolves of March 18, which he discussed in a May 5 letter to Elbridge Gerry. "This State," he explained to Gerry, "have fully adopted the

Measures of Congress relative to finance," which he defended as "founded in Wisdom," although conceding that "the consequent heavy tax acts" would be exploited by tory critics. In this letter—which is located in the Americana collection of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, New York, N.Y.—Partridge also explained to Gerry that "the Genl. Court have before them a Depreciaiton Bill by which Governments & private Debts are to be paid, but there are so many Difficulties in forming it so as to do justice that I believe it will lie over to another session."

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 16 May 1780.

The Stores of which I wrote you this Morning¹ have been put on Board to go up to Trenton. The Commissary of Military Stores informs me, the Powder is of the best that has ever been in his Hands. Hope the strictest Care will be taken in using it to good Effect.

I am this moment informed that a Fleet was seen last Monday off Cape Hatteras steering N by E consisting of 35 Sail mostly Transports, supposed to be from Charlestown. You will observe this is but Report. By a Vessel from Havanna *it is said* the French Fleet sailed from America the 15th April last. If I obtain any Thing decisive Your Excellency shall be duly informed.

I am, in much Haste, your Excellency's hble Servt,
Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Not found.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia May 16. 1780

Your favour of the 10th Instant hath been duly received and laid before Congress, a Committee were appointed thereon to confer with the Executive, and Assembly of this State, which are now sitting, the Committee have not yet reported.¹

Enclosed you will herewith receive a Copy of Baron Steubens Thoughts on reducing the Army.²

We have in Town some favourable Reports from Charles Town, but I dare not yet communicate them as true.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Gentln, your
hbble servt, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ The committee's May 10 letter appealing for provisions for the army was referred to Oliver Ellsworth, William C. Houston, and Frederick A. Muhlenberg, who met with Pennsylvania officials on May 13 and 16. No report from Ellsworth's committee was ever entered on the journals, but the resolves adopted by Congress on May 19 in response to a memorial from the French minister La Luzerne was undoubtedly shaped by information collected by this committee in its deliberations with Pennsylvania. Ellsworth was the author of a major part of those resolves as well as chairman of the committees to which both the Committee at Headquarters' letters and La Luzerne's memorial had been referred. See *JCC*, 17:423-24, 437-39; and *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:349, 351. For the deliberations of the former committee with Pennsylvania officials on May 13, see also William C. Houston to Philip Schuyler, May 13, 1780.

² This enclosure is in PCC, item 39, 2:107. It is endorsed "Baron Steuben's thoughts on reducing the Battalions," but it bears the heading "Proposals for the formation of our Army for next Campaign." The proposals originated in a paper Steuben had transmitted to Washington on March 15 (Washington Papers, DLC) that was subsequently sent to the Board of War and to Congress, which resolved on March 21 to ask the states "to suspend making new appointments of officers in the regiments of their respective lines." See *JCC*, 16:271-73.

Samuel Huntington to the Marquis de Lafayette

Sir, Philada May 16. 1780

I have been favoured with your Letter of this Day and laid it before Congress.¹

It is with real Pleasure and Satisfaction I congratulate you Sir on your safe return to America and assure you that Congress consider the Return of the Marquis de la Fayette to America to resume his Command in the Army as a fresh Proof of the disinterested Zeal and persevering Attachment which have justly recommended him to the public Confidence and Applause; and they receive with Pleasure a Tender of the further Services of so brave and gallant an Officer of which you will be fully informed by the Act of Congress herewith enclosed.

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ For Lafayette's recent return to America from France and the letter he wrote to Congress this day, see Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda) 3:1-13; and *JCC*, 17:432.

Member of Congress to Unknown

[May 16, 1780]

We are yet anxious for the fate of Charlestown, having no advices from thence later than to the 15th of April. There was no account in New-York on the 10th of this month of its being taken, whence

we may conclude it was in our hands as late at least as to the first of May.

Great apprehensions prevail in New-York of a visit there from a naval force. A packet arrived in a short passage from England the 3d of this month, upon which two dispatch boats in less than 48 hours were sent off to Sir Henry Clinton. New works are throwing up at the narrows, and a large number of vessels are loaded with stone ready to sink in the channel. Lines are also forming across from the east to the north river just without the chain of redoubts, and the militia are continually exercising and on fatigue.

Congress have lately received dispatches from abroad, down to the 4th of March. The disposition of Europe never appeared more favourable to our cause than at present. The resources of France and Spain will be greatly drawn forth against the common enemy this year; and America, comprehending the West Indies, will be an early and capital object of their attention.

Great Britain has received a fresh denial of assistance from Russia; and has by her late insolent and piratical proceedings against the Dutch roused the spirit of that nation also against her. Nor is the like to receive any aid from Denmark, which though armed is armed against the insults of Great-Britain. No troops will be drawn this year from Germany more than to recruit the regiments already in the British service.

The claims of Ireland are in a regular train, still advancing; and will probably stop short of nothing less than independence of the British parliament, which is certainly the point they ought to aim at. The conventions and committees of correspondence in England have given so much alarm that spirited measures are taking to suppress them. His majesty has been advised to break every county lieutenant that has given countenance to the late meetings and consultations of the people, which advice he has thought fit to accept, and time must shew with what success.

Our agent at Nantz writes that ten thousand complete suits of cloaths for the army would be shipped in a very short time and fifteen thousand stands of arms. Cloth was also purchased for seven or eight thousand suits more.

The fund in France for payment of the interest bills of exchange, notwithstanding some evil surmises to the contrary, still remains good and punctual payment will continue to be made. The credit of these States is in no danger of failing abroad, and with prudent management it can never fail at home.

MS not found; reprinted from *Connecticut Courant and the Weekly Intelligencer*, May 30, 1780. Identified by the printer: "Extract of a letter from an Hon. Member of Congress, dated Philadelphia, May 16."

Nathaniel Peabody to Elbridge Gerry

Dear Gerry, Morristown 16th of May 1780

Your very Obliging favor dated May, only, has been duly Recd.¹ Am much obliged by the Communication there in Contained. And I wish it was in our power to avail ourselves of the advantages that ought to result from the expected Succour from our allies. But alas you know it is not, nor will it be, while ——s Go on as they now do. I would to God you were in Congress at this moment as it would Give me the most Sanguine expectation that some thing vigorous and desicive would be done at this Critical Conjunction. There is a price put into the hands of America, and Oh that She had but a heart to improve it!!

The Conduct of the board of ——² would be unworthy any other Set of men under Heaven, And I am even Surprized that they Should be guilty of Such duplicity of Conduct. Mr Mathews is this moment going to Congress which Gives me only time to add that I am most Sincerely, your friend & Humble Sevt,

Nathl Peabody

P.S. I will endeavour to mention some other parts of your Letter in my next—in the mean time wish you to press Mr. Hillegas for the money.

RC (NjR: New Jersey Letters).

¹ See Gerry to Peabody, May 12, 1780.

² That is, the Board of Treasury. For a letter of this date to Peabody from Gerry concerning his efforts with the board to obtain the payments of a warrant for Peabody, see *N.H. State Papers*, 17:391.

Committee of Commerce to Milner & Haynes

(Duplicate) Commercial Committee of Congress
Philadelphia 17 May 1780.

Gentlemen¹ We find from a State given us by your Mr. Haynes that there is a balance due to your House of seven thousand & thirty six pieces [of eight], 6 [ryals] & 5 [stuivers, St. Eustatius currency]² on account of the Quantity of twenty six thousand five hundred pounds of Gunpowder which by contract you are to deliver to the United States.

You will find by the inclosed Copy of our Letter of this date to Messrs. Curson & Gouverneur³ that we have directed them to pay you that balance. You will therefore please to deliver the said quantity of Gunpowder to those Gentlemen who will give you the proper receipts for the same.

There is a charge of 1454 p[iece]s [of eight] made in your acct. with the United States which Mr. Mumford is of opinion should not have been made & we find by your Letter to him of 19 Decemr. 1777 "you agree to relinquish the same if it should be disputed." We have in concurrence with the Idea of your Mr. Haynes agreed to have this matter determined by indifferent persons to be chosen by you & Messrs. Curson & Co.

We have not the least doubt of your paying particular attention to the quality of the powder you deliver our Agents.

We are, Gentlemen, your most obedt Servants,

James Searle

John Fell

RC (NJR: New Jersey Letters). In a clerical hand and signed by Fell and Searle.

¹ Little is known about the operations of Milner & Haynes, although the firm was apparently trading on the island of St. Eustatius in proximity with Curson & Gouverneur, the recipient of the committee's letter mentioned in paragraph two. Samuel Curson was the Continental agent on St. Eustatius. *JCC*, 13:100.

² In this discussion of the "State[ment of account] given us by your Mr. Haynes" concerning a gunpowder contract, the sums involved are undoubtedly expressed in the money of account of St. Eustatius: pieces of eight, ryals, and stuivers. On St. Eustatius at this time there were six stuivers to the ryal and eight ryals to the piece of eight. John J. McCusker, *Money and Exchange in Europe and America, 1600-1775. A Handbook* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1978), pp. 292-95.

³ Not found.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[May 17-18, 1780]

17. Wednesday. I met the medical come. No new intelligence.

18. Thursday. Congress sit twice this day & 'till 11 o'Clock at night, upon important matters.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Congress was discussing the "report of the committee on the memorial from the Minister of France," concerning joint Franco-American operations in the coming campaign. See *JCC*, 17:436; and Samuel Huntington to the States, May 19, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Benjamin Lincoln

Sir,

Philada May 17. 1780

I am warranted from undoubted Authority, and directed by Congress to acquaint you that we may daily expect the Arrival of a considerable Armament of Naval & Land Forces from France to act in Conjunction with our Forces which gives us great Reason to hope

we may be able to expell our Enemies from all their Posts in the United States.¹

Although I am directed to communicate this Intelligence to you it is desired it may be kept as secret as the Nature of the Case will admit; at the same Time it is conjectured the Enemy in New York, have got some Intimation of the Intelligence as they appear greatly alarmed and are strengthening their Works in New York and talk publicly that if the News gets to Charles Town before the Place is taken General Clinton will raise the Siege and abandon his Posts.²

I am unable to judge in what Situation this Letter may find you but make no Doubt if you are able to defend the Town but a little longer the Enemy will be obliged to raise their Siege or become Prisoners.

The whole of the Continental Troops from Maryland and the lower Counties on Delaware are on their March under Baron de Kalb to join you, they passed this City ten Days since and will proceed with all possible Despatch. I hope they may arrive so as to give timely Succour, if you should not receive it before from another Quarter.

I am Sir &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14).

¹ This information had been communicated to Congress this day in a memorial from the French minister, the chevalier de La Luzerne, for which see *JCC*, 17:433; and Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

² Lincoln, of course, could make no use of the intelligence contained in this letter as he had already surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton on May 12.

Francis Kinloch to Henry Laurens

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia May 17th 1780

I embrace the earliest & best opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your's, dated, Wilmington 21st April, & need not, I trust, express, how much I join with you in anxious expectation of hearing the fate of our Capital, & the brave men within it. I am, however, not without my hopes, & am convinced, that if Sir Henry has not Succeeded before this time, he never will. The Garrison & inhabitants of New York have been thrown into the greatest confusion by news received from Europe, repeated councils of war have been held, repeated expresses sent off to Clinton, & the citizens, as well as the military, are called out to fatigue duty; they are erecting works between the two rivers, and a battery at the lookout, on Staten Island, whilst a number of vessels have been prepared, & are ready to be Sunk, with a view of obstructing the entrance of the harbor. These facts, joined to the information we have received from Europe, lend us to expect the appearance of a friendly force. I thought it of the

greatest consequence that our friends in Carolina should be immediately made acquainted with our expectations in this matter, as it may be attended with no Small influence upon their councils. As my Colleague Matthews is on a committee at Camp,¹ I am deprived of his advice with respect to that part of your letter, which hints the expediency of transmitting to Mr. Adams, a Similar commission, to that which you now hold, but have thought it best upon reflection, not to mention any thing about the matter, answering in general terms to all enquiries, that you were at Wilmington, & waiting for a Safe opportunity to embark. Should we be so unfortunate as to lose Charles Town, it will not then be too late to transmit a commission to Mr. Adams, but should our enemies be disappointed, you will in that case, I flatter myself, my dear Sir, be prevailed upon to make the attempt, & may do it with a far greater prospect of Success, if not embarrassed with the interference of another Person. We have had quires of paper from our Ministers abroad, but they contain little else but extracts from French & English Newspapers, except on one head which I have alluded to in the other page of this letter, & which prudence forbids my discussing on paper. Should any thing material take place, I should esteem it a particular favor to hear from you, & will endeavor to deserve it, by giving every degree of information from this quarter.

I am, dear Sir, with the greatest respect & esteem, Your most obdnt.
& hum. Servant, F. Kinlock

[P.S.] The Marquis de la Fayette is arrived, & has, I believe, some information to communicate.

Governor Morris had the misfortune, to be thrown out of his Phaeton the other day, & has lost his leg by amputation.

I enclose the last Newspapers, which I beg you would be so kind as to forward to the Governor.

Tr (CSmH: HM 18772).

¹ Kinloch, who had been elected to Congress on February 1, 1780, and first attended on March 25, had been South Carolina's lone delegate since April 25 when John Mathews left Philadelphia for Morristown as a member of the Committee at Headquarters. *JCC*, 16:285. Mathews returned this day to petition Congress to strengthen the powers of the committee, but left for headquarters soon after submitting a motion to Congress on May 20. The South Carolina delegation was thus depleted until the arrival of Thomas Bee on June 6 and Isaac Motte the following month.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia May the 18th. 1780

The Inclosed newspapers under Philadelphia head Contains the Principle Part of the information we had by the last Packet from our

agents in France, Excepting a reinforcement of a Considerable number of Ships of war and land force from our good friend and ally, the King of France, which we have a Right to Expect in a Short time. If they Shood arive Safe and the Several States Exert them Selves So as to furnish the army with Provision, with the Blessing of god we may hope and Expect to be able to drive them from this Continent.

By accounts from Charlestown the 15th of April our army ware in helth and high Spirits, and by accounts from New York we have Reason to belive that all ware well there the 3d Instant.

As we for some time Past have had no money in the treasury and those who Board us must Receive there Pay every week or our Subsistence must faile, this want of money Puts us in an uncomfortable Situation for we Can nither stay here nor Returne home; hope if you have any in your treasury you will send some to your Poore Dellegats by the first oppertunity.

I shall Expect to be Relived at the furthest in September and Shood be glad to be Sooner if it Can be Convenently done.

I am with grate Respect Sr. your most obdient Humle Servent,

Nathel. Folsom

P.S. I this day Recd. your Feavour of the 28th of April and laid it before Congress and by them Referd to the Board of war who are to Report to Congress, every Exertion in my Power to carry it in to Effect you may Depend upon.¹

Similar applications haveing been made by the States of New York and Pensylvania, I Expect to Share the Same fate with them.²

N F

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ President Weare's April 28 letter to the New Hampshire delegates, requesting additional Continental troops to protect the state's frontier against Indians, was referred to the Board of War this day. See *JCC*, 17:436; and *PCC*, item 64, fols. 106-7. For Congress' decision to appropriate money for 250 men for this purpose, see Folsom to Weare, June 1, 1780.

² For Congress' endorsement of a similar request from New York, see New York Delegates to George Clinton, April 4, 1780, note 2. No trace of a "similar" application from Pennsylvania has been found in either the journals or *PCC*, but for the draft of a letter from Pennsylvania to Congress seeking assistance in her boundary dispute with Virginia so that she could dedicate her energies "to the common Cause" without neglecting the interests of her citizens on her own frontier, see *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:289-92.

Elbridge Gerry to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Philadelphia 18th May 1780

General Arnold in his Letter to Congress of the 12th Instant having Reference to the Draught of a Report, which I made at the Board

of Treasury whilst a Member thereof, has rendered it necessary for me to rectifie several Errors, if they can be so called, under which the General has laboured in stating that Matter.¹

Congress having on the 27th of April 1779 referred to the Board of Treasury, General Arnolds Petition of the same Date, on the 28th I proposed the Draught mentioned to be adopted by them, *as their Report to Congress*. Soon after it was read, the Board being disposed to rise, directed it to be filed with the Petition for future Consideration; but before this could take Place, the Commissioners of the Chamber of Accounts to whom General Arnolds Accounts had been long before referred, applied to the Secretary or Clerk of the Board for that Petition, & probably received with it, inadvertently, the Draught mentioned. Be this as it may, I knew nothing of the Matter then, nor for a considerable Time after, untill some Gentlemen of the Treasury informed me, that General Arnold had been propagating such a Report as is contained in his Letter to Congress. I must confess that I could scarcely credit the Information, being conscious to myself, that General Arnold had no just Grounds for such a Proceeding, but presuming it had originated by Mistake, I enquired of the Members & other officers of the Treasury & Chamber of Accounts whether General Arnold had received his Intelligence from them, & was informed, that he had not but on the other Hand, that some of them had explained to him the Matter. This I supposed would have been satisfactory to him, & altho' he had acted unkindly in spreading the Rumour, I presumed he would rectifie it, & tho't no more thereof. But not long after, conferring with him at the Door of Congress on the Subject of his Accounts, which I had taken much Pains to have settled to his Satisfaction & with Justice to the Publick, he hinted to my great Surprize the Circumstance before related, & after I had declared to him on my Honor, that the Paper was sent to the Commissioners without my Consent *or Knowledge*, he still appeared desirous of believing otherwise. I then informed him that he was at Liberty to think as he pleased on the matter, & that he could not produce any Evidence, or a single Circumstance in Support of his Suggestion: on which he said, that he tho't he had received his Information from Mr Carmichael, who coming up to Us soon after, was interrogated on the Subject, & utterly denied that he had given such Information, & further said that he knew or believed the contrary.

Having thus stated Facts to the best of my Memory, I must beg the Indulgence of Congress in making a few Remarks on the General's Letter. He first says, that the Draught of the Report was "designed for the Commissioners of the Chamber of Accounts to make on his Accounts." Herein he is unfortunately confuted by the Copy of the Report which he has transmitted to Congress, for it begins thus "The Comme. having likewise considered a petition from Major

General Arnold of the 27th Instant referred to them by Congress, beg Leave to report." And if the General will be at the Trouble of looking at the printed Journals of Congress of the 27th of April 1779 he will find his Petition was referred to *the Board of Treasury*, & not to the Commissioners of Accounts; how, then can it be supposed that the Report was draughted for the Commissioners, when it otherwise appears by the Draught itself? And here it may be proper to enquire, how the General came by an original Paper of the Treasury, for speaking of the Draught he says, "the original I have in his (meaning my own) Hand writing." I have no objection for my own Part to his being indulged with the Original of that or any other of my Essays, but I cannot learn from any of the Officers of the Treasury that he is properly possessed of that Paper, & am unable to conceive that any Person, even a Member of Congress has a Right to take from any office an original Paper without being properly authorized so to do, or that the General is not highly reprehensible for this his Conduct.

General Arnold is equally unhappy in his next Observation, that "the Report as appears by the Date was drawn up previous to the Commissioners examining his Accounts," for it is well known that his Accounts had been a long Time before under the Examination of the Commissioners of Accounts, altho' they had not finished that Business.

The General is still more unfortunate in his third Assertion, that the Report was "presented to him by one of the Commissioners as Instructions or the Sentiments of the Treasury Board sent to them to govern in the Settlement of his Accounts," for the Commissioners utterly deny this, as shall appear to Congress when they deem it expedient. I shall forbear to make any Remarks on the Inconsistency of supposing, that the Draught alluded to was intended as *Instructions*, or that it could have been sent *in such a Form*, & on a Scrawl, "as the Sentiments of the Treasury," to the Commissioners, to govern them in the Settlement of General Arnolds Accounts.

The General Concludes by saying "How far Mr Gerry's Conduct on giving private Instructions to the Commissioners of Accounts, tending to influence their Conduct in a Matter that was to be ultimately Judged & determined by the Treasury Board of which he was a Member can be justified upon the principles of Honor or Equity, or how far his Instructions & Influence have operated in occasioning the Disputes which have arose on the Settlement of my Accounts, Congress will determine." And there Congress will give me Leave to request, that General Arnold may be furnished with a Copy of this Letter, & have Leave to produce his Evidence if any he has, that I ever gave "private Instructions" of any Kind "to the Commissioners of Accounts." The assertion I declare on my Honor to be an Untruth, & submit to Congress, whether any Part of my Conduct whilst a

Member of the Board of Treasury or of Congress, has been inconsistent with, And whether General Arnolds Conduct in this Affair can be justified on "the principles of honor or Equity." The last Part of this paragraph seems to explain General Arnolds Conduct in endeavouring to fix on me an unmerited Stigma, for therein he suggests that my "Instructions & Influence has Operated in occasioning the Disputes which have arose in a Settlement of his Accounts." I have never been desirous of occasioning Disputes in the Settlement of General Arnolds Accounts; if they are right they will undoubtedly be allowed And He will have no Reason to apprehend Injury from Disputes, but if erroneous (which seems to be the Opinion of all the Boards & Committees who have reported thereon) surely they ought not only to be disputed but corrected, or disallowed. But I presume enough has been said to convince Congress, that General Arnolds Observations relative to my Conduct are without Foundation, & that they are equally so with Respect to the Commissioners of Accounts. The Board of Treasury whose Business it was to attend to the Conduct of the Commissioners, never had Reason to suppose (whilst I was a Member thereof) that they were capable of undue Influence, And if We may judge from their Disputes with General Arnold, he has no Reason to conceive that *he* can influence them; on the other Hand, they had ever manifested in their office, such Abilities & Integrity, that Congress as well as the Board of Treasury always tho't it their Duty to support them. But Sir, if persons who have Accounts to settle with the publick are thus permitted to misrepresent the Conduct of the Officers of Boards instituted with proper Checks for the Security of Individuals as well as the publick, & upon every Dispute relative to the propriety of a Charge to appeal to Congress, or Committees thereof; will not the Intention of Congress in providing such Institutions be utterly frustrated, & may not the publick Accounts be as well adjusted, & a considerable Expence be saved, by dismissing the officers established for this Purpose, & by permitting such persons to choose or be their own Arbiters? The unprovoked Attack made by General Arnold on my Character has obliged me to be thus explicit which I hope Congress will excuse, & remain sir with every Sentiment of Respect for them as well as Yourself, your most obedt., & most hum, servt,

E. Gerry

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78). Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Letter from E. Gerry, May 18. 1780, In answer to the last paragraph of the letter of 12 from B Arnold. Read the same day."

¹ Gen. Benedict Arnold had appealed to Congress on April 27, 1779, for the settlement of his accounts, which had since been the subject of study by two committees and the Board of Treasury. Upon examining the latter's report of April 22, 1780, Arnold had appealed to Congress on May 10, and was immediately directed "to state in writing" his objections, which he did in the May 12 letter to which Gerry is here responding.

Arnold was incensed not only at the delays of the treasury and its alleged failure

to make distinctions between paper money and specie, but also, he asserted, because of "Mr. Geary's Conduct in giving Private Instructions to the Commissioners of Accounts Tending to Influence their Conduct in a Matter that was to be ultimately Judged and Determined by the Treasury Board of which He was a Member." His May 12 complaint had been referred to a committee on May 16, which submitted a report on their findings on July 31, but no action was taken on it at the time and the events of Arnold's treason intervened before any final settlement was reached. See *JCC*, 14:513, 15:1134, 1181, 1193-94, 1366, 16:166, 168, 187, 393-96, 17:418, 433, 682-83; and, for Arnold's May 12 letter and a number of associated documents, *PCC*, item 136, 4:233-75.

Gerry submitted this rebuttal to Arnold in writing because he had been boycotting Congress since February 18, 1780.

Samuel Holten to Richard Bache

Sir. Front Street May 18th. 1780

The inclosed letter I have laid before the committee of Congress on the post office & they are of opinion that you can make the alterations proposed without any particular directions from Congress or the committee; if you have any objections to making the proposed alterations or want any farther powers, please to be so kind as to let me know it.¹ I am Sir, your most obedt.²

FC (PPIIn). In the hand of Samuel Holten. Addressed: "The Postmaster General."

¹ In a May 1 letter to its delegates in Congress, the Massachusetts Council had asked for an alteration of the post between Boston and Falmouth, i.e. Portland. In his May 22 reply to Holten, Bache explained that "I have consulted with the surveyor of the Eastern District respecting this matter, and beg leave to refer you to his Sentiments thereon which are inclosed. Tho' the plan is not exactly similar to the one proposed by the Council yet as the object they wish for will be answered I trust and hope they will be satisfied." *Revolutionary War Letters*, 202:202, M-Ar. See also Holten to the Massachusetts Council, May 23, 1780.

² Holten also wrote a brief letter this day to the Board of Treasury asking for \$6,000, to be charged to Massachusetts. Holten Papers, DLC.

Robert R. Livingston to George Clinton

Dear Sir, Philadelphia, 18th May 1780.

You may be surprized at hearing of me again from this place after my determination to leave it. I had indeed set out but was stoped by the important intelligence that has been communicated to you & which is too delicate to dwell upon in a letter.¹

It gives me extreme pain to see the Vermont business so long delayed, but we find it impossible to proceed in it for want of a full representation; the moment we have, I shall endeavour to bring it on,² if I can stay so long tho' as my money & credit are exhausted & my affairs not in the most promissing situation at home I have

some doubts on this point. You have heard of poor Morris's misfortune in the loss of his leg; he bears it wth becoming fortitude and is, I hope, in a fair way of recovery.

We have an account by the way of New Berry Port that a fleet of 8 sail of the line were on the coast of Georgia on their way to Charlestown on the 3d of May; should this prove true & our other expectations be answered we have every reason to hope that this campaign will terminate the war in America.

I hope our State have had the prudence to stop the sale of the confiscated property & to make use of it as a fund for the redemption of their money. I have drawn upon the treasury for the amount of my taxes, having no other possible way of discharging them while here & as the State is greatly in my debt I hope they will answer my bills. Your Excellency will do me a favor by getting some genl. resolution for this purpose. I am, D^r Sir, with the highest esteem & resp^t your Excellency's most obt. Hum: Serv^t,

Robt. R. Livingston.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:717-18. RC (N: Clinton Papers), charred.

¹ For this "delicate" intelligence, see Samuel Huntington to Certain States, May 19, 1780.

² See New York Delegates to Clinton, May 21, 1780.

Samuel Holten to William Gordon

Reverend dear Sir,

Philadelphia May 19. 1780.

Your favor of the 1st instant came to hand a few days since, & it gave me sensible pleasure after so long silence.

I have not seen anything of your scheme that you mentioned as being sent forward before, but as you have been so kind as to mention the substance of it I will give you my opinion upon the matter. Congress will not be likely to do any thing about it; as they intend to fix their money agreeably to their resolutions of the 18th of march last and all the money now in circulation is considered by them as not being more than sufficient to pay the taxes called for & furnish the supplies for the army as lately requested. This must *fully* appear if you attend to their resolutions above mentioned as well as several other proceedings of Congress; Such a plan as you propose I have often tho't of and many others as finance has engaged a great part of my attention for 18 months past, but after well considering of the same I was of opinion that it wou'd not be advisable for Congress to go into such a measure; for they are not [so] much endeavouring to get the bills out of circulation as to procure money & provisions to carry on the war, and if the good people incline to pay their taxes in hard money or the new bills when they come out at the rate of 1

for 40, I am *very* sure Congress will have no objection; I wish what I have mentioned above to be considered on only of my opinion so far as it respects Congress. I shou'd suppose the Board of Treasury to be the proper place to take under consideration such a scheme & give directions as they are vested with great powers particularly respecting bills of exchange at this time and was I to act as one of that Board I might be of different opinion from what I shou'd be as a member of Congress when acting as such.

The foreign intelligence bro't by the Marquis is considered here as being much in our favor, but as I suppose you collected the chief of it soon after he arrived I shall not be more particular, the Accounts from Madrid recd. a few days before are also agreeable.

We have no official intelligence from the southern army since about the middle of April, but some accounts by private persons are to about the last when all was safe.

Thus far I had wrote when your favor of the 24th ultimo came to hand, but I have not time to make much addition.

Congress sit near half the last night & you may expect pressing calls upon the states.¹ We have not a moments time to lose if we expect to reap immediate advantages from the exertion of our Ally in our favor.

The committee that prepared the late resolutions on finance was Mr Ellsworth of Cont., Genl. Schuyler, N.Y., Mr. Houston N.J., Mr. Livingston, N.Y., Mr. Burke, N.C., & myself but I consider Mr Ellsworth as the Father of them as he put the first outlines on paper, & is a *very* worthy man.

I took notice of your lady's compliments & please to return the like salute. Can't enlarge, Farewell, my dear Sir. S.H.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ The subject of debate during this unusual night session was the impending arrival of French forces for the forthcoming campaign.

Samuel Holten to Aaron Wood

My dear Sir.

Philadelphia May 19th 1780

Your sensible & polite favor of the 24th ultimo, came to hand a few days since, & please to accept my thanks for the same; To do justice to every part wou'd require more time than I can well spare before the post will set out therefore I hope you'll consider this as a testimony of how much I am desirous of cultivating so an agreeable correspondence *on my part* as your honor appears to be willing to come in to; But thro' the multiplicity of business I am engaged in, I fear you'll be disappointed in corresponding with me, as my letters must be short & poorly composed, 'tho' I will endeavour not [to] be

wanting in numbers. Nothing respecting our domestick affairs has turned up here Since my last, that deserves your *particular* attention except inexcused embarrassments, and as to foreign intelligence, I apprehend you collected the chief from the marquis; Such parts as has been tho't proper to publish you have in the enclosed paper; The "Extracts of several letters from a gentleman of good information, in Europe" were wrote by a person well known to you.¹ The intelligence from Madrid that we recd. a few days before the dispatches by the Marquis is also agreeable.²

We have no official intelligence from Genl. Lincoln since about the middle of April, but expect every day to hear important news from that quarter, God grant it may be in our favor. I have this moment heard that private acct. say all was safe at Charlstown the first instant.

I wish you always to consider me under some restraint when writing upon our national affairs; But as I hope to have the pleasure of paying you my personal respects in the course of the summer, I will then express my Sentiments to you without reserve.

Congress sit about half the last night & I expect before this comes to hand, you will receive the most pressing calls from Congress for money & supplies for we have not a moments time to lose if we expect to reap immediate advantage by the exertions of our ally in our favor. Can't enlarge, Farewell, my dear Sir,

[P.S.] Notwithstanding all our public distresses are we a penitent & reformed people, I fear we are not, & if so, what have we not to fear.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ That is, John Adams. For the letters received from Adams, see Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note.

² For this intelligence, see Elbridge Gerry to Nathaniel Peabody, May 12, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir, *Circular* In Congress May 19th. 1780

Congress have recd authentic information that his most Christian Majesty is preparing to send a powerful Naval & Land force to some part of the Continent of North America.¹ This force generously calculated either to produce a diversion in our favour, or to forward the Operation of our Arms by being directed to the same object, may either by our exertions be made the means of delivering our Country in the course of the Campaign from the ravages of War, or being rendered ineffectual through our supiness serve only to sully the reputation of our Arms, to defeat the benevolent intention of

our great Ally & to disgrace our Confederacy in the Eyes of all Europe.

Every State that reflects upon the depreciation of the Currency & their own deficiency in the payment of their taxes must necessarily conclude that the Treasury is exhausted. The military departments are at a stand for the want of money to put them in motion. Congress have no resources but in your spirit & Virtue, upon these they confidently rely. You know the value of the prize for which you contend, nor need you be informed how much you are interested in a speedy termination of this distressing & expensive war.

But as the smallest disappointment in the requisitions they make may be attended with the most serious consequences, they have endeavoured so to limit their demands as not to exceed your power to comply with them.

The sum for which you are called upon by the within resolution they flatter themselves you will furnish to the Treasury by the fifteenth of June at furthest, without neglecting to discharge the orders that have been drawn upon you for the whole of which, you will receive credit on your account of taxes due on the first of March last.²

As this Money is absolutely necessary to put the Army in motion, independant of the purchase of provisions, we trust you will by no means remit your attention to the forwarding your quota of supplies, which the present exigency renders more requisite than ever.

It may not be improper to suggest to you, that if a strict & immediate collection of taxes should be insufficient to procure the necessary sums within the time limited, it may perhaps be more speedily obtained by Loans.

Congress for the greater dispatch, have thought it expedient to appoint a Committee to assist the Commander in Chief in drawing out supplies—As their powers will be inadequate to the purposes of their appointment unless they shall derive their force from the States to whom they will be under the necessity of applying. They most earnestly request you, if you should find it inconvenient to continue your sessions to lodge such powers in your Executive, or some part of your Legislative body, as will enable them at this interesting period on the application of the Committee to call forth the resources of your State.³

Congress trust that these requisitions will not appear unnecessary, when compared with the information on which they are grounded. In the importance of which they doubt not that you will find a sufficient Apology for the demand, and the warmth with which they intreat you to carry these measures into immediate execution.

By Order of Congress

Sam Huntington President

tington. LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "To the several States from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive."

¹ See Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

² For this May 19 resolution, adopted in response to a recommendation of the committee appointed to consider the consequences of the arrival of French land and naval reinforcements for the coming campaign, see *JCC*, 17:433, 436-38.

³ See *JCC*, 17:439-41.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Sim Lee

Sir Philadelphia 19 May 1780

I am directed to acquaint you that there being but one Delegate from Maryland attending at Congress that State is not represented.

That Matters of great Importance are now lying before Congress, which require the United Councils, and vigorous Exertions of all the States; and it earnestly requested that Maryland may be represented in Congress as soon as possible.¹ With great respect & Esteem, I have the honor to be, your Excellency's hbble servt,

Sam Huntington President

RC (MdAA: Red Books). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For Congress' May 17 resolve directing Huntington to urge Maryland and Delaware to send a representation to Congress, see *JCC*, 17:435. Huntington also wrote an identical letter this day to Delaware president Caesar Rodney. Although several matters of importance were before Congress, this resolve was undoubtedly adopted at the request of New York, which had long been pressing for a congressional decision on the Vermont issue. See New York Delegates to George Clinton, May 21, 1780.

For Governor Lee's May 26 letter to John Hanson and John Henry urging "an immediate Compliance" with Congress' request, see *Md. Archives*, 43:182-83. The two Maryland delegates took their seats in Congress on June 14 and 23 respectively.

Robert R. Livingston to George Clinton

Sir [May 19, 1780]¹

I wrote to your Excellency yesterday. I trouble you again about matters of a private nature if those can be called so in which the honor & justice of the publick are materialy interested. On the last assessment I was rated at £3300. By a Letter recd. yesterday from my Agent I am informed that I am again rated at £9000 & that the whole of my income notwithstanding the most assiduous endeavour to collect it does not amount to 600 Bushls. of wheat. I have no personal property & occupy a small farm which does not half pay the expence of cultivating it. The profits of a valuable profession & my whole time I have devoted to the publick for a very triffling compensation which I have seldom recd. but to give to others who I thought more distressed than myself together with considerable

additions out of my private fortune. I have already since I have been at this place expended upwards of sixty thousand dollars in order to maintain the character with which I am invested, a small proportion of which will be repaid me by the State. I need not add to this the unremitted endeavours that I have exercised to promote the freedom & happiness of my country or the heavy losses I have sustained by the ravages of the enemy. These I think sufficiently evidence my willingness to bear my full proportion of the burthens of the war but surely some rule of proportion ought to be established. Taxation never can go beyond what a man can spare after the necessities of life are afforded out of his income. If the publick conceive that I have no meritt on account of the sacrafices I have made & that my whole time & the profits of a profession which would with less expence of Labour, health & peace than my publick employments cost me procure an elegant competence—let them treat me as criminals are treated in some countries, let them take my whole estate into their hands & allow me so much out of it as they conceive necessary to support me in the manner in which they would wish me to live—or let them if take my whole income into their hands & strip me of publick employments & leave me to support myself by my own industry. To either of these I will chearfully submit. To both I cannot without injustice to myself & family. I shall be told that these matters doe not lie within the Reach of the legislature to whom I wish the letter to be communicated. But surely Sir a servant of the publick who by his attention to their interest is placed in such a situation as not to be able to attend to his own affairs as the ordinary modes of procuring redress must expect that the government will take care that bare justice is done him and that a respect for their commands shall not be the means of his ruin. The least I conceive that a publick Officer may expect is that no final assessment be made till his return home but that the charges remain against him till the Legislature can within a reasonable time after his return afford him an opportunity of combating its justice or so ordering his affairs as to pay it neither of which it is [. . .] to do in my present situation. *(And I shall find myself In the necessity of quitting a State which suffers my ruin As the price of my endeavours to serve them. As I have it in my power to settle advantageously here or goe abroad I [. . .] now whether it is the intention of the Legislature to sacrifice their servants to the)*. I intreat you to believe sir that I entertain too high an opinion of the Legislature to [be]lieve that it is either their wish or their in[tention] to render the ruin of their servants the price of their [la]bours. I flatter myself that the bare mention of it will [con]vince them to do me ample justice for an injury which has unavoidably risen out of their system of taxation. If otherwise Sir you will do me the favour to inform me as soon as possible as I have it now in my power to make an advantageous settlement here or to go abroad upon honourable terms.²

FC (NHi: Robert R. Livingston Papers). In the hand of Robert R. Livingston.

¹ Although this draft is not dated, Livingston apparently wrote it on May 19, 1780. Livingston's opening reference to a letter of "yesterday" is probably to his May 18 letter to Clinton printed above.

² For Livingston's continued inability to obtain relief from his tax assessment in New York, see Livingston to Ezra L'Hommiedieu, June 11, note 4; and Livingston to Clinton, June 29, 1780.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

My much esteemed Friend

May 19. 1780

Large Packets are here recd. from Mr. Adams up to March 4th.¹ His Reception was of the most cordial Kind. I shall execute speedily all his confidential Requests, and shall tell you the Nature of them in some Moment of more Leisure than the present. If a depreciating Currency has not ruined our Spirit & Principles of Patriotism, it is not a mad Thing to hope that this Year's Campaign will give us Peace. But I must own that I feel great Uneasiness lest Ships and Troops should be *in vain* sent to co-operate with us. They may be hourly expected. We are much unprepared. I am sure that Mass. will do her utmost to forward what Congress may find necessary to recommend on this extraordinary Occasion. It is very material that the Nest at Penobscot should be broken up.

I am, Madam, Your Friend and Servant,

JL

[P.S.] The inclosed is from Col. R. H. Lee, to be forwarded to Mr. Adams.²

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:354-55.

¹ See Samuel Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note.

² The enclosed Richard Henry Lee letter to John Adams of May 7, 1780, is in the Adams Papers, MHi. It is misdated May 17 in Lee, *Letters* (Ballagh), 2:182-84.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir,

May 19. 1780

Yrs. of 16th I recd. 17th by Mr. Mathews.¹ The Picture in it is indeed a black one, and very singularly unwelcome at this Time as we appear from it to be in danger of losing a most glorious Opportunity to cooperate with the Aids sent by our good Ally.

There is a sadly obstinate Contest against every extra Power to be given to any Committee or Individual for the purpose of essential Dispatch. Something however is now in Train which doubtless you will know more accurately from Mr. Mathews.²

You can have no Idea to what mean Distress I am reduced for

Want of Money. I can not get a Dollar from the Treasury or sell a Bill upon Sight.

I have many Chagrins in the domestic Way, which are fit only for a Tete a Tete. I suspect that *Magdalen* has not had a Line from "the most honest Man that ever was in a Camp." I hope you have never touched upon the Topic of "*pretended* addresses."

Yrs.

J L

RC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary War Documents).

¹ Not found.

² For the "extra Power to be given any Committee or Individual," see Committee at Headquarters Memorandum, May 14; and Robert R. Livingston to Philip Schuyler, May 21, 1780.

Samuel Holten to Nathaniel Peabody

My dear Sir.

Phila. May 20th. 1780.

Doctr Brown has been so kind as to call upon me in his way to Headquart[er]s, but my engagements *this morning* are such I can do myself the pleasure ownly of writing you a few lines.

Yesterday Congress came into a number of resolutions by which they have given their com[mitte]e at Headquarters *very* large powers;¹ you are not ownly to give directions in what way the supplies called for are to be forwarded, but to call upon the states for farther supplies if they are wanted by the General, and the several states from Virginia to New Hampshire inclusive are called upon to invest their Executives or some other persons with powers sufficient to carry your applications immediately into effect; And the aforesaid states are most earnestly called upon to pay into the Treasury 10,000,000 dollars immediately or within 30 days to inable the army to take the field, for it is considered here that we [have] not a moments time to lose, if we expect to reap immediate advantage from the exertions of our ally in our favor.

We had a letter yesterday from Mr. Jay & a Copy of one from him to his most Catholick Majesty & his answer which was *very* agreeable.²

We have nothing late from Genl Lincoln. I expect Mr Mathews will be with you soon & I believe the business he came upon is done to his mind—can't enlarge. Farewell my worthy freind.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ See Samuel Huntington to George Washington, this date.

² These letters from Jay were ones of March 3, 1780, to Congress and of January 27 to the Spanish Minister of the Indies José de Gálvez [not "his most Catholick Majesty"]. "His answer" was a letter to Jay of February 24 from the Conde de Floridablanca, the Spanish Foreign Minister. See *JCC*, 17:435; *PCC*, item 110, 1:50-55,

72-76; Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:476-78, 515-16, 529-30; and Jay, *Papers* (Morris), 1:715-16, 737-38.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Dear Sir,

Philada. 20 May 1780.

On the Receipt of your Excellency's Favour of 11 March last, I made it my Business to cast about for some Mode in which Colo. Diriks might be employed to better Effect for the Publick and more agreeably to himself, than was the Case at that Time and unfortunately continues so still.¹ Finding that suitable Expedient was attainable, I informed him in such Manner as to deserve, as far as possible, your Excellency's recommendation of my Frankness and Candour. Shortly after this some Circumstances turning up which it was thought probable would call the attention of Congress more particularly than heretofore to the Affairs of Holland, Colo. Diriks, with the Advice of his Friends, applied for Leave to return thither with a Recommendation to Mr. Laurens for Employment, the means of defraying the Expenses of his Passage, such Testimony in Favour of his Merit as might be thought proper and the Commission instead of the Brevet of a Lieutt Colonel. Congress were not willing to grant the first and last of these requests, lest they should embarrass Mr. Laurens, to whose Discretion they had confided the Employment of such Persons as he should find necessary in managing his Mission; and lest they should make an improper use of Rank in the army, upon which Subject they have for some Time past become very cautious. The Resolutions which they passed not being satisfactory to the Colonel, they were revoked. He has lately made a second application, which has been referred to a Committee to which I happen to belong.² How sucessful our report may be, I am not able to conjecture; but am not greatly sanguine though for some Reasons, not of Moment to detain your Excellency, I advised the Application. It remains only that I do my utmost for a Man who is active, informed, and closely attached to our Cause, and who, I believe, from his Connections in his own Country, would be very useful to us there. As Mr Laurens has not yet left America, and we have some Circumstances favouring his Return to this Place before he sails the Matter is delayed a little for the present and I have to assure your Excellency that I shall continue to pay due Attention to your Ideas on the Subject.

I am extremely sorry for Mr Laurens's Disappointment in not being able to embark from Charlestown, agreeably to his Expectations when he went from hence. The State of Affairs in Holland is,

at this Time, critically wavering, and many Circumstances promise us great Advantage: the Importance of an early Connection and good understanding with us, the Strength of the Confederacy against England and the violent and pyratrical Insults upon the Commerce of the Provinces. We are told by Letters from Europe that the Insults upon the Dutch Commerce operate so strongly, that the Stadtholder begins to be doubtful whether it is politick further to support the Interest of the British Court so unreservedly as he has hitherto done. The Friends of America have a favourable Occasion, and great is our Loss in not being in Condition to make the most of it.

All Intelligence from the other Side of the water is favourable, and if we can but play our Part well in a vigorous Campaign, great are the Benefits which, through the Blessing of Divine Providence we may hope to acquire.

I am, with great Regard, your Excellency's most obedt. hble
 Servant,
 William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Jacob Gerhard Diriks, a Dutch adventurer, had been granted a brevet commission of lieutenant colonel by Congress as compensation for his effort to promote a Dutch loan, for which see these *Letters*, 10:419n.2, 11:179-80, 407n.1, 14:306.

² In a letter of March 26, 1780, Diriks had offered his services in assisting Henry Laurens' mission by introducing Laurens to his "establis[he]d Conections in Holland," for which he sought just compensation. PCC, item 78, 7:277-80. Rather than "embarrass Mr. Laurens," Congress merely granted Diriks "leave to return to Holland agreeably to his request," stopped his pay, and awarded him \$500. This resolve was repealed, however, on April 24. Dirik's "second application" to Congress was referred to Houston's committee, which resolved the matter in much the same fashion. Dirik's case continued to drag on until May 17, 1781, when Congress ordered his brevet commission revoked, his accounts settled, and granted him one year's pay. See *JCC*, 16:320, 333, 372, 377, 388, 17:416, 596, 608, 639, 701, 963, 19:94, 128-29, 20:486-87, 514-15.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, [May 20, 1780]

I am honoured with your Excellency's several Despatches of the 1st Instant by Messenger Brown and immediately laid them before Congress,¹ hoping to obtain the necessary Acts respecting their Contents, and return them by him; the Letters were committed, and one report brought in to establish a Hospital near New London,² some other Matters not yet reported upon, and while these Matters were under Consideration, some important Intelligence arrived from Europe, which hath engrossed the Attention of Congress almost Night and Day, to give Despatch to the Acts of Congress which you will receive by this Conveyance; and are of such Consequence that Brown could no longer be detained, but is directed to forward them with

all possible Despatch. I have been confined to business until past Midnight for several Nights.

The Forms of Commissions Instruction, &c for the Navy have been lately revised and corrected and in future will issue from the Admiralty Office; I shall take due Care to see a Number of them forwarded agreeable to your Excellency's request.

The Assembly in this State are now sitting. I am informed by their Members they have agreed to adopt the Acts of Congress of the 18th of March & expect the Act will be published in a few Days.

The Effect of that resolution has already put a Stop to Depreciation and the Money is rising in Credit & I believe will become fixed at 40 for 1.

We are yet in anxious Suspense respecting the Fate of Charles Town. On the third Instant our People were in Possession of the Town, and by all Accounts it seems the Enemy had turned the Siege into a Blockade, though we do not learn they had cut off all Communication with the Town.

All the Continental Troops of the southern States including Delaware are gone to their relief, and though we are still suspended between Hope and Fear, our Hopes rather increase.

Your Excellency will receive herewith two Pamphlets containing the Laws, and Minutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the second Sitting of their fourth Assembly, and they desire to be furnished with the Laws passed in Connecticut in return.

I have the Honour to be with the highest Respect & Consideration, your Exys. most Obedient, Humble Servt,

Saml. Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:422-23. Trumbull's three letters to Huntington of May 1, which had been laid before Congress on May 11 and referred to various committees, are in *PCC*, item 66, 2:37-48. These consist of (1) a request to establish a Continental hospital at New London, Conn., a receiving point for prisoners coming from New York who were often infected with smallpox and in need of quarantine; (2) a request to improve the settlement of commissary accounts to avoid injustice to Continental suppliers and to prevent interruptions in the flow of provisions to the army; and (3) a letter of transmittal enclosing two Connecticut acts adopted in response to resolves of Congress of February 25 concerning provisions quotas and of March 18 concerning the Continental currency.

² The report of the Medical Committee supporting Trumbull's request for the establishment of a Continental hospital at New London was brought in on May 18 and adopted on May 23. See *JCC*, 17:436, 447; and Huntington to William Shippen, Jr., May 24, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia 20. May 1780

This will be delivered by the Marquis de la Fayette.¹

By the Acts of Congress herewith enclosed of the 31st Jany, 16th & 20th Instant your Excellency will be informed of the Measures adopted by Congress,² and the Powers with which you are invested for co operating with the Forces of our Ally in Case they arrive. Further Powers and Instructions are also given to the Committee at Head Quarters to adopt every necessary Measure in our Power³ to enable the Army to take the Field and for supporting the Forces of his most Christian Majesty in Case of their Arrival.

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellency's
 hbble servt, Sam. Huntington President

P.S. I am favd with your Despatches of the 13th, 15th, & 16th Instant.⁴

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ This letter had its origins in La Luzerne's May 16 memorial reporting that French forces were being sent to America for the coming campaign, intelligence that had been carried by Lafayette on his recent return to the United States. Luzerne's memorial had been referred to a committee which reported a number of recommendations for cooperating with the French forces on May 18, and two days later submitted "a farther report" recommending that Lafayette confer with Washington on "measures for carrying on the operations of the ensuing campaign." See *JCC*, 17:433, 442-43; and Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

² These enclosures consisted of Congress' January 31 response to La Luzerne's original announcement that France was preparing vigorously for operations in America in 1780; a May 16 resolve applauding Lafayette's return to America; and two May 20 resolves urging the states to forward their troop quotas to the army and requesting Lafayette to confer with Washington on French plans. See *JCC*, 16:111-14, 17:432, 442-43. For another document that Huntington apparently planned but failed to send with his letter, see Huntington to Washington, May 29, note 3.

³ "our Power" appears in the LB, but was omitted by Huntington's clerk in the RC.

⁴ Huntington's clerk apparently misunderstood the president's instructions in adding this postscript. There are no letters from Washington to Huntington of May 15 and 16, although his two letters of May 13 were read in Congress on May 15 and 16 respectively. See *JCC*, 17:427, 432; PCC, item 152, 8:543-51; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:351-52.

Massachusetts Delegates to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia May 20th 1780.

We do ourselves the Honor to inclose the Copy of a Note received from the Minister of France;¹ and we hope that some suitable Persons may be directed to prosecute the Enquiries therein mentioned, and to transmit to us the consequent Informations. From these Communications will probably grow Fruits very beneficial to the State of

Massachusetts, the minister appearing to us at all Times to take a cordial Interest in its Prosperity.

We apprehend the Copies of some Materials already in the public Offices of the State will go far towards giving a compleat Satisfaction.

We have Col. Campbells Description of Penobscot Fort & its Neighbourhood; but That is rather vague for any Purpose but to show the Value of the Country.

We are with great Respect, Sir, your most humble Servants,

E. Gerry

James Lovell

S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Written by Lovell and signed by Lovell, Gerry, and Holten. Addressed: "Honble President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ The enclosed undated "Note" from the chevalier de La Luzerne requesting information necessary to plan an attack on the British at Halifax and Penobscot, and the Massachusetts Council's reply with information on the strength of the British defenses at those posts, are in Revolutionary War Letters, vol. 202:193-94, M-Ar.

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

Dear Sir,

Morristown, May 20th 1780.

General Washington Informs me that he has wrote you on the Subject I mentioned in my last by Letters from Philadelphia.¹ I am Informed that Congress has appointed a Committee, Livingston of New York, Jones of Virginia and Elsworth of Connecticut, to lay before the States the Intentions of the King of France and to make such requisitions as may be necessary.²

The Committee of which I am one, have reported that the Regiment late Du Bois's should be reduced,³ that the Officers should retire on full pay during the war, and be Entitled to the Emoluments heretofore promised by Congress. I mention this that if your Excellency & the Legislature should wish to have the regiment kept up (as it will be of little extra expence to the State) their pleasure may be signified that I may take the proper measures.

The president of Congress in a letter of his of the 18th says "we have in town some favorable reports from Charles Town but I dare not yet Communicate them as true;" From New York we learn that the Betts on Thursday last were three to two that Charlestown would not be taken. The French West India fleet under Count De Guichen is out, some say for the American Coast.⁴

I have the honor to be, with great respect & Esteem your Excellency's most Obedient Serv't,

Ph: Schuyler.

¹ In a letter to Clinton of May 18, Washington had discussed measures required of the states for cooperating with the French forces enroute to America, and requested that New York troops be sent to Fort Schuyler to relieve the Continental garrison there for anticipated joint Franco-American operations. Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:383-84.

² See Samuel Huntington to Washington, this date; and Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

³ See Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, May 16, Enclosure No. 3; and Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, May 31, 1780.

⁴ The French fleet in the West Indies, commanded by Luc Urbain de Bouëxic, le comte de Guichen, fought a series of inconclusive battles in April and May with a British fleet commanded by Sir George Rodney. William M. James, *The British Navy in Adversity. A Study of the War of American Independence* (1926; New York: Russell & Russell, 1970), pp. 196-213.

Philip Schuyler to Ezra L'Hommedieu

Dear Sir

Morris town May 20th 1780

I ought not to Complain that I have not been favored with a line as I have not done myself the pleasure to address you one Since we parted. I am however perhaps the most Excusable of the two as I have been closely kept doing something or other in the public way.¹

My Colleagues on Committee for arrangements are Mr Mathews & Mr. Peabody. We are daily engaged In that business without however making the Progress I wish. The want of Money in the Treasury, the want of Magazines here, and the Scarcity of the necessary Supplies, and the want of public Virtue, combine to embarrass us exceedingly. The Quarter Master General threatens to resign & his Deputys refuse to Act, because they deem themselves Injured by some resolutions of the treasury Board. The System of State Supplies we find Inadequate to the purposes It was Intended for, & more Expensive than a *well directed* purchasing System would be. The Army has been two days without meat, and they may be so ten days more for aught the Commissary knows to the Contrary. The Soldiery are uneasy. They begin to attribute to a want of resource what they had been Brought to believe proceeded from Accidental Impediment. This is a disagreeable picture of things. But heaven which Indulgently Smiles on America I trust will brighten the prospect. It is said the Marquis de La Fayette has brought something favorable; should Our ally send a fleet, and we Rouse from our torpor into Exertion, we might possibly drive the Enemy from the Continent at least from this part of It In the Course of the Campaign—but remember that without great exertion every attempt to It will fail, and I conceive It better not to begin, than to begin without a probable prospect of success.

On Sunday last gouverneur Morris's horses ran away In the streets of Philadelphia. He leaped out of the Phaeton, and shattered the

bones of his left leg so much that It became necessary to amputate It. There are good hopes of his recovery.

Accounts from New York announce that Count de Guichon with his fleet has sailed from the West Indies,² and supposed for the American coast. Vessels are filling with Stones to stop the Channel at the narrows, and fire rafts making. Betts run three to two at York that Charles town will not be taken, we also begin to think so. The president writes me of the 18th "We have in town some favorable reports from Charles town but I dare not yet Communicate them as true."³

As soon as we have made the arrangements here, I propose to examine the posts to the Northward and reduce numbers that are now preying on the public; that done I hope to set quietly down to my farm.

A most Extraordinary change of Conduct took place in a Certain Gentleman.⁴ He was not from the time you left us until I came from Philadelphia once disguised, and has behaved with much propriety since.

If this meets You at Kingston I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you there, pray make my best wishes to Colo. Floyed.⁵ And believe Me Dear Sir, with sentiments of Sincere Esteem & Friendship,
Your Obedient Humble Servant, Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] Pray request Mr E. Benson to Accept my best respects.

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980).

¹ In his June 7 reply to Schuyler, written from Kingston, N.Y., L'Hommedieu explained that he had not written previously because "we every Day expected to see you at this Place [i.e., to confer with the New York legislature then in session at Kingston]." Lloyd W. Smith Collection, NjMoHP.

² See the preceding document, note 4.

³ This quotation is actually from President Huntington's letter of May 16 to the Committee at Headquarters.

⁴ The identity of this "gentleman" has not been discovered.

⁵ That is, William Floyd, the brother of L'Hommedieu's wife, Charity Floyd L'Hommedieu.

John Morin Scott to Abraham Brasher

My unhappy Friend¹

Philadelphia May 20th. 1780

I need not tell You how much I feel for your distresses; nor how much I wish to alleviate them. In this View I wrote some Time since to General Schuyler² as a Member of the Committee of Arrangements at Head Quarters requesting him, should it be agreeable to You, to open a door for You in the Staff department whereby You might with Honor & advantage to yourself serve your Country. I had from him the most cordial Returns in your Behalf, with this Addition

that he wished You would mention how he might serve You; as he wanted nothing but Information from You how it may most effectually be done to your Satisfaction. I have nothing new to give You. This State has adopted the plan of Finance & I firmly believe it will be universal. This with the most vigorous Efforts in this Campaign will I hope save the united States from the impending Storm & verify the Motto of our Great Seal—*frustra*. Make my sincere Condolence to your good Lady on her various Misfortunes, present my most sincere regards to her, & tell her that on her uncommon fortitude I much rely for the Comfort of my Friend. I wrote this day again to General Schuyler.³ Nor did I fail to express myself most interestedly in your Behalf. Perhaps I go beyond your desires. If so tell it to me, and I shall repress my Ardor to serve You in that Train. Is there any other You can point out to me? If there is write Me freely & confidentially; for surely You want no Asseverations to convince You my dear Friend, How much & how sincerely I am, Ever Yours,

Jno Morin Scott

P.S. Write to me frequently, I shall make the proper Returns.

RC (CSmH: HM 39002).

¹ Abraham Brasher (1734-82), a New York gunsmith, was soon appointed secretary to the Committee at Headquarters at Morristown, N.J. See Committee at Headquarters to Jonathan Trumbull, June 1, 1780, note 3; and "Genealogy of the family Named Brasier, Brasher. . .," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 27 (January 1896): 40-41.

² Not found.

³ Not found.

James Duane to Philip Schuyler

Dear Sir

Philad. 21t May 1780¹

I have the Honour of your favour of the 13t Inst at the hands of our Friend the Marquiss de la Fayette. I agree perfectly in All the Sentiments you express on the bright Prospect which is open to our View, in your anxious wishes that we may avail ourselves affectually of the Cooperation of our generous Ally and in your Opinion of the disgrace of our Councils & our Cause if we should be so unwise or so indecisive as not to make the proper Advantage of this golden opportunity to draw the War to a successful Period. The Progress hitherto made in Congress falls vastly short of your Views & my Efforts. But it is the fate of deliberate Bodies to move with Caution; and I have no manner of doubt that we shall be under some disadvantage on that Account. At the same time that I am persuaded every Measure which the general thinks necessary will be supported (on his own Application) by Congress with unanimity. Mr Mathews

will be able to inform you of the obstacles to a Committee plenipo. & I have hinted them to the general:² they are deep seated in their human passions and not to be surmounted on the first Impression. That the Reinforcements orderd to the Southward shoud be halted is obvious for the Reasons you assign: but do you expect such a proposition from a Northern Member deeply interested in strengthening the main army? It is a question of the utmost delicacy and even danger: for, however groundlessly, an opinion has been propagated that Congress meant to sacrifice the two southermor States & it has been productive of great Animosity and discontent. We have privately stated the subject to some of the Southern Gent. who tho' I believe convinced of the propriety of the Measure did not chuse, after great deliberation to have it adopted, much less to propose it. There is but *one Person*³ from whom it can originate with prospect of success. If *we*⁴ had undertaken it nothing woud have resulted from it but the loss of personal Confidence & disappoint[ment]: But while you have Mr Matthews at your Elbow who is fully informed I Only waste your time by descending to particulars.

Present my respectful Compliments to Mrs. & Miss Schuyler, the Doctor, his Lady & the Circle of our common Friends, and believe me to be with every sentiment of Esteem & Regard, Dear Sir, Yours most Sincerely &c,

Jas. Duane

[P.S.] Present my respectful & affect Compliments to Col. Hamilton. Tell him that I shall answer his Letter by the post.⁵ By the Marquiss I find it impracticable.

RC (N: Miscellaneous Manuscripts).

¹ This letter is printed in Burnett, *Letters*, 5:170-71 ("clipped from undesignated newspaper"), under the date May 26.

² John Mathews had just returned to Morristown with resolves of May 19 augmenting the powers of the Committee at Headquarters. No letter from Duane to Washington concerning the powers of a "Committee plenipo." has been found, but see Duane to Washington's aide-de-camp, Alexander Hamilton, May 23, 1780. For further information on the proposed "Committee plenipo.," see Schuyler to Duane, May 13; Committee at Headquarters Memorandum, May 14; and Robert R. Livingston to Schuyler, this date.

³ That is, General Washington.

⁴ That is, the New York delegates, Duane and Robert R. Livingston.

⁵ See Duane to Alexander Hamilton, May 23, 1780.

James Duane to George Washington

(*Dear Gen*) Sir, Philadelphia 21st May 1780, On publick Service.

The enclosed Letter was delivered me after a very importunate personal Solicitation. I have a very great Respect for Col Shea, and a warm desire to serve every Officer of distinguished Merit: At the

same time that I am anxious to do no Violence to the Arrangements of the Army which have been brought into order with such infinite pains and under numberless Embarrasments. Under these Circumstances I promised Col. Shea to learn from your Excellency whether the promotion asked for Capt. McClean woud not be improper or irregular, and to give his Application Support if it could be done consistent with the order of the Army. If your Excellency sees no objection I shoud be glad of your Opinion accordingly.¹

I have the Honour to be—with the utmost Regard, Sir, your Excellency's most Obedient humble Servant, Jas. Duane

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Col. John Shee's May 21 letter to Duane on behalf of Capt. Allen McLane of Delaware is in the Washington Papers, DLC. For Washington's June 5 reply opposing McLane's promotion to major, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:478-80. McLane's promotion came under the consideration of the Board of War, but no congressional action was taken on it. See *JCC*, 17:415n.3, 18:963, 1023.

Robert R. Livingston to Philip Schuyler

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 21st May 1780

Mr. Matthews has shewn you the powers of the Committee which with great difficulty we have appointed.¹ The oposition was exactly such as I expected, & from the quarter I mentioned to you, & its effect delay & a diminution of the power necessary to render the committee extensively useful. I have laboured hard to bring about a recal of the Maryland Line but without success. To move it myself would have lost us the confidence of the Southern States & excited an oposition which would have effectually deprived us of the power of being useful upon other occasions. I endeavoured to prevail on Mr. Jones or Mr. Matthews to make the proposal, in which case we could have supported it with so much force as to have overborne all oposition. They were brought to *wish* it, but did not dare to move it when it came to the point so that all that we shall be able to do will be to direct them to return in case they hear the siege is raised before they arrive at Charlestown. I shall myself venture to move tomorrow for the return of Lees corps,² the cavalry of which have not yet left the place. We have likewise appointed a committee to confer with the Minister on the procuring supplies for the French troops,³ & to obtain intelligence of the strength of the enemy at the several ports, & the soundings of the several bays and harbours &c. I could wish you to communicate to us your Ideas on these subjects. The Minister will either draw bills or pay in specie for the necessaries which his Masters troops may require. This will put them out of danger of want, but what will be its operation upon our supplies?

How can this matter be best managed to render his credit useful to both?

On the other subject I would beg the favor of you to communicate the best information you have recd of the force the enemy have to the Norward, the strength & the weakness of Canada. And as you are more in the way of procuring intelligence from New York than I am to let me know as much as possible the force of the enemy there & in the neighbourhood.

We have the most warm & pressing representations from our state relative to Vermont, and we expect hourly to have it brought on the carpet here.⁴ I shall write to Mr. Peabody to come down immediately,⁵ which he has promised me he will do. You will be so obliging as to enforce my representations & to send him down as soon as possible, as I think he can be better spared from camp now than hereafter. You will present my comps. to Mrs. Schuyler & the Ladies with you. Will you believe that I have not yet ventured to execute your commission in the fullest extent? a new & a moritifying instance of my infirmity to you in ———. Let me hear from You from time to time & believe me most [. . .]ly yours &c.

Robt R Livingston

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ See James Duane to Schuyler, this date, note 2.

² For the failure of this effort, see Livingston to Schuyler, May 26, 1780.

³ Livingston, Oliver Ellsworth, and Joseph Jones were the delegates appointed to this committee on May 17. *JCC*, 17:433.

⁴ See the following entry, note 4.

⁵ Not found.

New York Delegates to George Clinton

Sir,

Philadelphia 21st May 1780

We are sorry to be obliged to inform your Excellency that, notwithstanding our Efforts to bring the matter of the New Hampshire Grants to a Decision, unavoidable Obstructions have prevented it to this day. On the 2d of March last it was made an order of the day for the 7th. In that Interval the new plan of Finance which had been before on the Table was resumed, and we were with great Reluctance compelled by the pressing Instances of Congress to permit the order of the day to give way to the more general and, as they insisted, more pressing Business of Finance. By this means the order of the day was postponed from time to time till the 18th of March when the Plan of Finance was compleated. In this Interval Mr Forbes a Delegate from Maryland fell sick and soon after died & that State became unrepresented. Georgia being also unrepresented, and New York,

Massachusetts and New Hampshire disqualified by the Resolutions of the 24th of September, nine disinterested States were not represented in Congress. Notwithstanding this Impediment we thought it right to shew our Earnestness to prosecute to effect a business of so much Importance to our State; and therefore on the 21st March moved to proceed to the order of the day; but "it was resolved that the same be postponed, nine States exclusive of those which are parties to the Question not being represented in Congress". In this Condition the business has been suspended; for tho' Georgia has been represented within three days Delaware has been unrepresented for several weeks. However to lose no Opportunity of manifesting the Solicitude which we felt, we, two days since, on the reading of your Excellency's Letter of the 9th Instant and some of the papers attending it, again moved to proceed to the order of the day; and the same Objection of the want of a Representation of nine disinterested States being urged, it was ordered "that the President write to the Executives of the States of Delaware and Maryland to urge them to send forward immediately and to keep up a Representation in Congress as matters of the highest Consequence are now before them."¹ At the same time your Excellency's dispatches of the 25th Ult.² were Laid before Congress and so much as related to the Depredations of the Indians refered to a Committee.³

We propose to prevail upon Congress to come into some pointed Resolutions to censure the Vermonteers for their Contempt of their Authority and the Recommendations of the only Body who can preserve the peace of the Confederacy.⁴ Something of this kind seems to be necessary to check the Violence of our Adversaries and to comfort and encourage the peaceable Citizens within the controverted Jurisdiction. The nature and Success of this Measure we shall communicate to your Excellency by Major Hunt if he can be prevailed upon to wait the Issue.⁵

We feel, Sir, the utmost Anxiety, for our frontier fellow Citizens. Nothing for their Protection, which is within the power of the State ought to be neglected: especially as we foresee that all the Forces which can be raised under the Authority of Congress will find full Employment in the active and offensive Campaign which is soon to open. The official Communications from the President, on the bright Prospect which is displayed by the promised Cooperation of our great and generous Ally, will fully explain to your Excellency what we have in Contemplation.⁶ It would be highly improper for us to enter into any detail on a subject which requires Secrecy as much as it does Vigour and Decision. A Committee of Congress residing at Head Quarters, of whom General Schuyler is Chairman, are authorized to correspond with the Governments of the respective States to direct and draw forth the necessary Supplies, and to effectuate, as far as possible, the Plan of Operations. To that Committee your Excellency

will be pleased to be referred. It gives us pleasure to be perswaded that our State by the wisdom, the Liberality, and the Promptitude, of her Measures, at this most critical and important conjuncture, will manifest to the World that she merits the Freedom for which we contend and the generous Cooperation of our Ally to secure the Blessing, by the total Expulsion of our Enemies from this Continent.

We are in Pain for the fate of Charles Town: the Enemy having turned almost their whole Force by Sea and Land, against one of the weakest members of the Confederacy: while it's distance renders it impracticable to send forward sufficient Reinforcements in Season. The garrison were safe the 28th of April; from a severe and incessant Cannonade they had lost Only fourteen Lives, and otherwise suffered very inconsiderable damage. But the Besiegers proceeding with the utmost Caution have gained ground and brought their works within 70 yards of the Defences. In this critical Situation the place remaind by our last Advices. The Garrison had made a successful Sortie killing a number of the Besiegers, and taking some Prisoners; but no decisive Advantages had attended it, as the Enemy maintain their ground and press forward with an apparent Resolution to carry the Town by regular Approaches.

The great Change which has taken place in the System of our Finances calls for an Alteration in the Mode of supporting the Members of Congress. We never approved of drawing money from the Continental Treasury; and only submitted to it because it had become a general Practice; and we were otherwise unprovided for. That Appropriations should take place, on the application of an Individual, for his own use, was equally improper with respect to the publick, and degrading to ourselves. At present the Treasury here is quite exhausted, and we must request the favour of a regular Supply in future and more especially of a speedy Remittance to discharge our debts which are become very burthensome as, not foreseeing this difficulty, we are entirely unprepared. To estimate the Expence in nominal money might call into Question our Œconomy in a State which has not yet reached the Summit of Extravagance which prevails in this City. Our board alone we shall mention as a Specimen being, according to a late demand, for a Gentleman and his Servant £270 Contl. per Week, exclusive of even table beer. We imagine, however, that the Value of six specie dollars a day with good Management may be a decent Allowance, exchange here between that and paper money being 60 for one. We observe that the Delegates of our State were originally allowed four dollars a day, and the price of every Article of Expence to which we are now exposed is at least double. We are far from wishing to derive a Profit from our publick Employment: on the Contrary it woud give us the highest Satisfaction if the Legislature shoud think it expedient to provide a House and Table for us, under the direction of a Steward, as in that Case we shoud keep

our hands clear of the publick money, and be excused from the Trouble of accounts. Let it not however, be understood that we sollicit this or any other particular Mode of providing for our Support; for we mean, with the utmost Deference, to submit it wholly to the Legislature. May we entreat the Favour of your Excellency to communicate this Letter, with our most respectful Complements, to that honourable Body;⁷ and to believe that we are, with the utmost Respect and Regard, Dear Sir, Your Excellency's most Obedient & very humble Servants,

Jas. Duane

Robt. R. Livingston

Jno. Morin Scott

RC (MiDbE1). Written by Duane, and signed by Duane, Livingston, and Scott. FC (NHi: Duane Papers). In the hand of Duane and Scott.

¹ Congress adopted this resolve on May 17, not "two days since." *JCC*, 17:435. Clinton's letter of May 9 has not been found; and only a brief extract from it concerning an Indian raid on the New York frontier is in PCC, item 67, 2:262-63.

² This letter was actually dated April 27. The extract from it that was "Referred to the Board of war" is in PCC, item 67, 2:254-55.

³ Except for these last three words, which Duane substituted for the phrase "to the Board of War," the draft of the letter to this point is in the hand of Scott.

⁴ Scott and Duane introduced "some pointed Resolutions" concerning Vermont the following day, which were taken into consideration by Congress on the twenty-third, but the issue was postponed because nine states in addition to the three interested parties were not currently represented. Nevertheless, the general subject was kept alive when a motion by Thomas Burke, on the obligations of Congress to states whose jurisdictional claims were under challenge, was referred to committee. That committee, consisting of Burke, James Henry, and William C. Houston, submitted a report on May 26 which was debated on May 29 and June 2. For the committee's report and the Vermont resolves adopted by Congress on June 2 as a result of that debate, see *JCC*, 17:482-84; PCC, item 20, 1:6-8; and New York Delegates to Clinton, June 2, note 1, and June 5, 1780, note 1. For the background of the Vermont issue and previous postponements of proceedings on the subject, see also James Lovell to Samuel Adams, February 1, note; and New York Delegates to Clinton, March 21, 1780, note 3.

⁵ An affidavit by Jonathan Hunt of Hinsdale, N.Y., declaring his belief "that the assumed government of the New Hampshire Grants, called Vermont, intends immediately after the first of June next to put their laws in execution," was laid before Congress on May 23. See *JCC*, 17:452-53; PCC, item 40, 1:337-39.

⁶ See Samuel Huntington to the States, May 19, 1780.

⁷ In his June 14 response to the delegates, Clinton declared that "my endeavours shall not be wanting to procure you an adequate compensation." Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:822.

Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington

Sir

Morristown May 21st. 1780

I was this morning Informed that about two hundred batteau men were engaged at Albany for the public service, but that they had

determined to leave the service as they could not procure their pay; Impressed with the necessity of retaining a body of men whose services, should any Offensive operations be prosecuted against the Enemy, I deemed Essential, I made further enquiry and learnt from a Capt. Sickles, who is an Ass. Quarter Master at Albany, that the men amount to the number I have mentioned, that they are engaged to Serve during the Campaign, at Six dollars per day—that they expected money on his return—that he has none, and that they will certainly Quit the service. I mentioned the matter to the Commander in chief, who is exceedingly anxious to retain them and Intreated me If possible to Suggest the means. If there is no money in the Continental treasury I can devise no other way but that of drawing on the Treasury of the state of New York. If this is done, and there Should be no money in that, I will Immediately give directions for borrowing as much of the money on my own Credit as can be procured, and become personally engaged for the remainder. As no time is to be lost permit me to Intreat the determination of Congress on the Subject and to be advised thereof.¹

I have the honor to be with Sentiments of great Respect & Esteem,
Your Excellency's Most Obedient, Humble Servant,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 153).

¹ Schuyler's letter was read in Congress on May 24 and referred to the Board of War. Congress resolved on May 26 and 31 that three months pay, totalling \$110,000, be drawn from the New York quota of Continental taxes to compensate the batteamen who were "to serve for the campaign." *JCC*, 17:454, 461, 474.

Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council

Sir,

Monday Morng. May 22. 1780.

The Committee of Congress are ready to confer with the Committees of the Supreme Executive Council and Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the Subject of the enclosed Resolution at such Time and Place as they shall appoint.¹

I have the Honour to be, on Behalf of the Committee, your Excellency's most obedt and very hble Servt. Oliv Ellsworth

RC (NjP: General Manuscripts). Addressed: "His Excy The Presidt of the Supreme Executive Council, Pennsylvia."

¹ A May 19 request from the Pennsylvania Assembly for a conference with Congress on the subject of "Certificates issued by the officers of the Staff department" had been referred to a committee consisting of Oliver Ellsworth, James Henry, and William C. Houston. Upon meeting with Pennsylvania officials on the twenty-second, the committee submitted a report to Congress on the twenty-fourth, whereupon the same

three delegates were reappointed a committee to consider "means" for discharging the certificate debt issued by the commissary and quartermaster departments. For their May 24 report and the resolves adopted by Congress on May 26 recommending that the states declare such certificates receivable by collectors of Continental taxes, see *JCC*, 17:441-42, 455-57, 462-66; and Samuel Huntington to the States, May 29, 1780. See also *PCC*, item 69, 2:201-4; *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:360; and William C. Houston to William Livingston, May 26, 1780.

As currency finance gradually disappeared as an option for meeting Continental obligations early in 1780, the issuance of certificates by staff officers, often resorting to force, had become the principal device for meeting the army's needs. As E. James Ferguson observed of the system, "the line between purchases and impressments was vague and unmeaningful," and in 1780 a large certificate debt became concentrated in Pennsylvania where procurement efforts to meet the demands of Washington's army increasingly focused. Pennsylvanians had understandably become alarmed at the trend, and therefore insisted upon legislation for making certificates receivable for taxes levied to meet Continental requisitions. For the work of Ellsworth's committee and discussion of some of the practicalities and fiscal intricacies debated at this time, see William C. Houston to William Livingston, May 26, 1780. For analysis of Continental fiscal policy and the steps taken by Congress in May and in August 1780 to cope with its massive certificate debt, see E. James Ferguson, *The Power of the Purse* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961), pp. 64-68. See also Philip Schuyler to Ezra L'Hommedieu, June 10, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. 22 May 1780

I have the Honour to enclose for the Use of the Legislature a Boston Paper of the 8 inst which I have this Day received by Post, containing the Act of the Legislature of the State of Massachusetts bay on the Proceedings of Congress of the 18 March last, relative to Finance.¹ I think it my Duty to communicate every Thing on this Subject which comes to my Hands, as to me the Matter appears of the most indispensable Importance; but shall not detain further upon it, having already explained myself pretty fully. I only beg Leave to observe, that if I had not thought the Interest of the State deeply concerned, I should not have been so explicit, especially since I have heard that a Variety of Sentiments prevails among those who are certainly capable of judging. This has aroused my Caution, but upon a careful review of the whole Subject, and Examination of all I have read and heard, I must still venture to say, that Something is necessary to be done, and that no Expedient appears to me so promising and adviseable, every Circumstance considered, as the one now in Question.

By communicating the several Acts as I receive this I do not expect that the Legislature will be so much influenced by Example, as assisted in framing a Law on the Subject. It may indeed be Matter of Encouragement that the Measure is elsewhere adopted, but as one

State cannot be injured by adopting it before another but rather the contrary, there can be no Objection to take early rank in this Instance.

I have heard it alledged that these Resolutions involve a Breach of Faith. Though no such Thing appears to me, yet if by any Construction it is inferred, it will probably operate to induce the Legislature to have out the comparison between specie and the present Bills, and retain only that between the latter and the new Bills to be emitted. How far this will be an effectual Provision, I pretend not to determine; the Consequences may be examined and it is of the highest Moment to weigh them.

Lest it should escape the recollection of the Legislature I take the liberty to mention that the Embargo Act continued the 25th of December last in Consequence of a recommendation of Congress of the 15th of the same Month, was limited to the first of April last. The expected Events of this Campaign, the present State of Provisions, the Prospects of the coming Crop, far from being so favourable as could be wished, all conspire to urge the Propriety of reviving and continuing that Act. The Matter was lately agitated in Congress, but as no Instance of Exportation was known, except from Delaware, and it was said the Embargo was in Force in the other States, a resolution was extended no farther than Delaware.² We did not mention New Jersey because there was no Doubt the Legislature on adverting to the Circumstances above-mentioned would take the necessary measures.

The State of Pennsylvania has applied to Congress for Direction with respect to the Propriety of receiving the Certificates given in the Staff Departments in the Payment of Taxes. As I see the highest Probability the measure will be approved and recommended I take the Liberty to apprise the Legislature.³ I see no Prospect of any other Answer to the Address and representation of 15th March last, and am of Opinion that Time need not be lost in waiting to hear from Congress. No Means in the Power of the Delegates of the States has been omitted, to obtain some other Mode of discharging the Debts due to the Inhabitants and avoiding the Necessity of resorting to this Expedient, but without Effect.

The Proceedings of Saturday last you have, ere now, received. I doubt not the President has suggested the Propriety of Secrecy. For though these Things are noising abroad, they are Surmises without Information. I speak particularly of the Contents of the Letter. The Occasion is highly interesting and the Improvement of it may be attended with the most happy Consequences.⁴

I have the Honour to be, your Excellency's most obedt hble
 Servt. William Ch. Houston

¹ The "Act of the Legislature . . . relative to Finance" appeared in both the *Boston Gazette*, and the *Country Journal* and the *Independent Ledger*, and the *American Advertiser* on Monday, May 8, 1780.

² For Congress' appeal to Delaware, see Samuel Huntington to Joseph Reed, May 24, 1780, note.

³ See the preceding document.

⁴ Houston is apparently referring to the events of Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20, when Congress, responding to La Luzerne's May 16 memorial apprising Congress that French forces were being sent to America for the coming campaign, passed several resolutions which were communicated to the states in Samuel Huntington to Certain States, May 19, 1780, which is probably "the Letter" to which Houston referred.

James Duane to Alexander Hamilton

Dear Sir,

Philad. 23d May 1780

The Marquiss de la fayette handed me your favour of the 14 Instant which woud have been sooner Answerd had not my Time been *fully* employd.¹ You will learn the difficulties of constituting a Committee *plenipo.* from another Channel; tho' a little Reflection upon human nature and a republican Government, might have brought them fully to your View without Assistance. What is *not committed* Congress stand ready to Support by their united Voice and Efforts, being resolved to Act with Vigour and Decision; so as to render the present Campaign glorious & Successful. The Committee have all the powers Congress can give to render them useful in drawing forth Supplies; & in opening the Necessary Communications with the Civil Governments. As to Military operations they must rest solely with the Commander in Chief; & Congress will not suffer any of their Committees to interfere in the Exercise of his free Judgement. Sometimes advice might be useful, but it is possible it might embarrass; & that Possibility woud have been enough to decide against the Powers had there been no other Objection.

The Marquiss I hope is pleased with the respect paid him by Congress; if it is not altogether agreeable it was not for want of the best and kindest Intentions. He luckily did not think, or at least speak, of the Captain of the Frigate as it must have embarrassed exceedingly from an opposition between the point of Propriety, & a disposition to please a Man to whom America is much indebted & who deserves to be gratified and is in every Respect entitled to my utmost attention.² I agree with you my dear Sir that the Conjecture is critical and that much Very much depends on our employing it to advantage: Vigour and diligence in Government and Zeal and Liberality in the People must in the embarressd State of our Affairs conspire to give us a prospect of Success and prevent our disgrace. To you who see things in their true Light I shall not enlarge. May Love and Glory unite to make you as happy as I wish & then you will have nothing

more to claim your Sollicitude: for I am with real Esteem & Affection,
Dear Sir, Your most obed Sert,
Jas Duane

PS. Present my respectful Compliments to the Family; comprehend-
ing Miss Schuyler. I have said nothing of Charles Town as Mr Kinloch
who has the best Intelligence is careful to communicate every thing
to Mr Matthews. The Approaches of the Enemy are Slow but they
seem to gain Ground & to maintain it by a decided Superiority. I
wish my Judgement & my wishes on this interesting Occasion were
better reconciled.

RC (MeHi: Fogg Collection).

¹ Hamilton's May 14 letter to Duane, pleading for the adoption of Washington's
proposal that a small select committee be empowered to manage the American activ-
ities required for effective cooperation with the French forces enroute to the United
States, is in the Hamilton, *Papers* (Syrett), 2:321-22. See also Duane to Philip Schuyler,
May 21, 1780, note 2.

² In his May 14 letter, Hamilton had explained that the marquis de Lafayette desired
Congress to adopt a resolution of thanks for Louis René Madeleine, comte de La
Touche, commander of the French frigate L'Hermione on which Lafayette returned
to America.

William Ellery to William Greene

Sir, Philadelphia May 23d. 1780.

Since my letter by the last post¹ I have been informed that Genl.
Cornell, who was chosen first delegate by the Assembly, was to set
out very soon after the election; so that in all probability the money
I requested might be sent me by the first delegate that should come
on will not come by him. I have now to request your excellency that
it may be transmitted as soon as possible for the reasons assigned in
my last. I have applied to my acquaintances for a small sum to pay
my washer woman and cannot even get that; so scarce is it and so
difficult to be had. One of them told me that he had been offer'd
thirteen per Ct. for two hundred dollars. I have a warrant on the
treasury which I would sell, and sustain the loss of a discount if I
could do it; rather than sustain the reproach of repeated dunning,
and of continuing here at the expence of the State without being in
a capacity to be useful to it. I am not the only poor delegate here,
many are in the same circumstances, and have been obliged to write
to their States for a supply of Cash. I hope that this matter may be
attended to, and that my earnest request may be complied with.

We have no late accounts that may be depended on from Charl-
estown. Yesterday it was reported that the enemy had attacked the
works on the 25th ultimo and were repulsed. This day's report is
that no attack had been made on the 28th, that the enemy had

cannonaded them for 15 days with but small effect. That they had invested the town; but our troops were in good spirits and determined to hold possession to the last. If they have held out to this time it is my opinion that the enemy will abandon the siege. The letter which your excellency will receive from Congress before this reaches you contains the foundation for this opinion. There is a prospect of an active campaign. I wish we may be prepared to oppose them vigorously with the force which may come to our assistance and compell our enemies to be at peace with us.

I am in haste, but with great respect, Your Excellency's, most obedt. humble Servant,
W. Ellery

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors). Staples, *Rhode Island*, p. 289. RC damaged; missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ See Ellery to Greene, May 16, 1780.

John Fell to William Livingston

Dear Sir,

Philada. May 23d. 1780

By Mr. Faish I had the honour of Receiving a Letter from you, inclosing one for Mrs Potts, which you suppos'd came from me, or Mr. Stewart, neither of which was the case, as we neither of us know any thing of it, having never seen it before, and in order that you might have no further trouble about the letter, I have given it to Mr. Bradford the Commissary of Prisoners, which I hope will meet with your approbation.

I am much oblig'd to you for your Particulare care with regard to John Hopper, Your Letter to Congress was Read, I said all that I could on the Occasion, but as I expected, without any Effect. The Letter was Committed but no Report has yet been made.¹ I have nothing new to communicate, And am with the highest Respect, Your Excellency's Most Obedt Humble Servt.

John Fell

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ In his May 7 letter to Livingston, Fell had described the case of John Hopper of Paramus, N.J., and asked the governor for a "Recommendation." On May 16 Livingston appealed to Congress to reimburse Hopper for the house and mill that had been "burnt by the enemy" while attempting to dislodge an American detachment quartered in the house. The presence of the Continental troops, Livingston explained, not "the Violence of the Enemy according to the common Fortune of War," had occasioned the destruction, and such losses "should be made good by the Public." See PCC, item 68, fols. 541-44. Livingston's letter was read in Congress on May 22 and referred to a committee which reported on May 24. On June 1 Congress resolved that Hopper's case was "not distinguishable" from numerous others and, until peace was restored, it would be inexpedient to consider "the particular relief of such sufferers." Livingston was formally notified of Congress' decision by President Huntington on June 3. See JCC, 17:444, 459, 480-81; and PCC, item 15, fol. 14.

Samuel Holten's Dairy

[May 23–24, 1780]

23. Tuesday. I wrote two letters to the President of the Council; I wrote to Mrs. Holten (no. 124).¹ The militia of this City mustered & they made a good appearance.

24. Wednesday. I visited the hone. Mr. Mulhenburg with Mr. Ellery & Genl. Fulsom. No new intelligence.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ For Holten's letters to the "President of the Council," see the following entry; but Holten's letter to his wife has not been found.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia May 23d. 1780.

A few days since, I was honored with yours of the 1st instant, directed to the delegates of Massachusetts respecting regulating the post from Boston to Falmouth; And as I have the honor of being upon the committee of Congress for superintending the post office, my colleagues desired me to attend to your instructions & endeavour to have the alterations made agreeably to the directions of the Honble Court; I immediately laid the matter before the comittee, & they were of opinion that the Post Master General was fully empowered & cou'd make the proposed alterations; I then wrote to the post-master, a copy of which I inclose,¹ & his answer, together with a letter from the surveyor of the eastern district; by which you'll be able to judge whether the alterations proposed by the Surveyor will answer the good purposes inputed by the honl. assembly; I have also conversed with the post master & surveyor upon the subject, and they appear desirous of complying with the views of the Court, but think their plan can be much easier carried into execution, & will answer the same purpose, & assure me that it shall take effect as soon as possible.

I was in hopes to have had authentick intelligence from Charlestown before the post wou'd have set out, but such as I have, I do myself the honor to communicate; We have several accounts from N. Carolina *of good authority*, which seem to agree in substance that the enemy, on the 25th of Apl., made an attack on Charlestown, by land & water, & were repulsed with the loss of 300 killed, & 250 taken prisoners: this account has some credit here, 'tho' I can't say, I put much dependence upon it, when I consider how often we have been deceived with respect to intelligence from that quarter.²

I inclose the minutes of the assembly of Pennsylvania, which I mentioned in my last.³

I have the honor to be with the highest respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,
S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ See Holten to Richard Bache, May 18, 1780, note 1.

² Shortly after completing this letter, Holten received additional intelligence from South Carolina, which he included in a second letter of this date.

"Since I sent my letters to the post office, We have intelligence from Charlestown, by a private person to the 5th inst. when all was safe & our people in good spirits, but the enemy had recd. a reinforcement from N York & had cut off all communication from the country, that the garrison had felt no want of provisions, & had enough to hold out a length of time, & that it was the general sense of all to defend it to the last extremity, that great numbers of shells, &c, had been sent in to the Town but had killed but a few of our people, & in several skirmishes we had got the better of them. The intelligence I mention in my other letter, of this date has turned out much as I expected; I wou'd have sent a much more particular acct. but I have not been able to procure a copy of the intelligence, and fearing the post may be gone before this reaches the office, I will not enlarge." Revolutionary War Letters, M-Ar.

³ See Holten to the Massachusetts Council, May 16, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to Joseph Ward

Dear Sir,

Philada. 23 May 1780.

I have the pleasure of acknowledging the Receipt of both yours of the 3d and 6th inst which came regularly in the Course of the Post. It being the Idea of Congress that you would find it convenient to accept the Election of Commissary General of Prisoners, and absolutely necessary to fill up the Board of Treasury where Business was suffering much, Mr. William Denning was elected to the Treasury a few Days after as you will see by the Proceedings of 28th ult. I am really unfortunante that, as you decline the Commissariate, we cannot have the Pleasure of your Company in the Board. If Mr Denning should not acquiesce, I shall still think myself authorised, at least for Time, to signify you will accept an Appointment which Accident alone has prevented your receiving.¹

I take the Liberty to enclose you a Paper of the Day and to beg, if it is not too much Trouble, you would cover me one from Boston.

Charlestown holds out to Admiration. Accounts say it was safe the 3d inst, though Nothing can be had from General Lincoln, the Town being completely beleaguered. Various Circumstances induce me to believe that on the 25th ult the Enemy made a vigorous Attack on the Post towards Ashley but were disappointed and repulsed.

I congratulate you on the Prospects of the Campaign. Great and interesting is the Occasion; and I hope by rousing and exerting the

Spirit of 1775 we shall, under God, be able to improve it to the most happy Purposes.

I am, dear Sir, with great Regard, your obedt hble Servant,
William Ch Houston

P.S. Since writing the within we have Accounts that Charlestown was safe the 4 inst. The Attack I mentioned turns out rather to be an Alarm.

RC (ICHi: Ward Papers).

¹ Ward had been elected to the post of commissary general of prisoners on April 15; William Denning a commissioner of the Board of Treasury on April 28. In a letter to Congress of May 3, Ward had declined the former position. Denning's acceptance of his appointment is not directly documented in the PCC, but his oath of allegiance of June 3, 1780, which was required of new Continental appointees, is in item 195, vol. 3, no. 265. See *JCC*, 16:366, 397, 17:435.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia 23 May 1780

By the Bearer Lieut. Bill of the Confederacy, I have an Opportunity to transmit your Excellency two Dozen of Commissions, Bonds and Instructions for private Ships of War in the new Form as revised and corrected.

I have also the honour to acquaint you that Congress have ordered a Hospital to be erected at, or near the Post of New London, the necessary Orders to establish this Hospital, will be sent to the proper Officer in the medical Department without Delay.¹

By accounts from Charles Town as late as the third Instant it appears the Enemy continued their Siege by regular Approaches, and the Garrison were determined to defend the Town to the last Extremity. We have also reports from that Quarter that the Spaniards are in Possession of Pensacola, but of this I have no official Intelligence.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's obedt hble servant,
Sam. Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington to William Shippen, Jr., May 24, 1780.

Joseph Jones to George Washington

Dear Sir.

23d May 1780

Col. Grayson has mentioned to me his receiving a Letter from Genl. Weedon desiring to serve in the northern Army if any em-

ploymt. can be carved out for him. This Gentleman for whom, as an Officer, I entertain a regard, has attributed the regulation of his Rank, wch. has occasioned his retireing, in great part to me; tho God knows I did no more in the matter than was my Duty by moving in Congress that the dispute be refd. to a Board of G. Officers. He has ever since his return kept himself aloof from me—abt. this I have no concern. I promised Col. Grayson I wod. mention the Proposal to you and had no doubt if a place could be found for him you wod. call him into service. His only objection it seems is his serving under Woodford. If you shall find an opening for Genl. Weedon I believe it will be agreeable and convenient to him but I request it may not be known to him that I had any concern in the business.¹ Various Letters from the Southward recd. yesterday mention the Enemies assaulting our Lines at Chs. Town on the 25th last month and were repulsed with the loss of 300 killed and from 150 to 250 prisoners. This account though by various communications originates with the Post Master at Edenton. Col. Blaine shewed me a Letter received yesterday from Col. Forsyth at Richmond in Virga. dated the 16th mentioning that a Col. Henderson had come out from Chs. Town the 28th ult. when no material change had happened except the loss of Col. Parker of our Line by a random shot—Genl. Scot without and under him abt. 400 light Infantry some Horse and abt. 1500 Militia—provision in the Garrison till July. 4000 N. Carolina Militia ord[ere]d down but no Arms for wch. a Maj. Eaton had come to Virga and was the Bearer of the News brot by Henderson. A Bill had been twice read for sending 2500 Militia from Virga.—thus far these accounts. If any assault had been made the 25th, it wod. have reached N. York and you wod. have heard it ere now. Very truly I am, Dr Sr., yr aff Servt,

Jos. Jones.

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ For the dispute leading to Gen. George Weedon's resignation from the army, see these *Letters*, 8:286n.3, 9:105-6, 197-99, 360-61. For Washington's May 31 reply denying Weedon "any command out of the line of his own State," See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:453-54. Nonetheless, on June 16 Congress accepted the Board of War's recommendation that Weedon "be called into service, and employed in the southern department as Major General Gates shall direct." *JCC*, 17:518.

Philip Schuyler to John Lansing, Jr.

Morris town May 23d. 1780

The Picture you draw my Dear friend¹ of the Situation of Affairs to the northward is truly distressing And Alarming. I hope however that the Spirit of the Country will not Sink Into dispondancy, on the Contrary I will not dispair of either their Vertue or Exertion of the

Whigs. In a moment so Critical to them they ought not to rely on the ordinary means of procuring a Supply of provisions. Who would hesitate when the Safety of a Country is at Stake to Seize on whatever may be necessary for Its security and to repel the Enemy. I hope none will be Influenced by an Improper delicacy In Such an Exigancy—the period is Advancing rapidly which will put an End to all our distresses. His most Christian Majesty has evinced the most decided determination to support us with Efficacy. A very respectable fleet and transports Conveying a numerous land force is on the point of arriving having Sailed from France in April, these are Intended to Act In Conjunction with us against the Common enemy either In separate or Combined operations, as we Shall Judge most Conducive to the Common Weal. Congress have appointed a Committee to Assist the Commander In Chief on this Important Occasion. I am one of that Committee. The various wants of the Army call for our closest Attention to the business and for every Exertion on our part and on that of the States, painful and troublesome as the task is. I am Incapable of Shrinking from the burthen Already deeply engaged In this Necessary business. I shall Continue my Endeavours without remission, happy If I can be In the least Instrumental to secure the great Objects of the Contest, peace, liberty and Independence. I have not time to write Mr Taylor, remember me to him, also Gen. Tenbroick, to all my friends, whom I Intreat most earnestly to Chear up the Spirits of my Country men, to Assist in drawing forth the Strength of the Country, to Secure It, much very much may be done by Example and I am Confident none of You will neglect to give a bright one.

My papers at Saratoga I wish to have brought down without delay, but I would rather risk the loss of my movable property there, than by removing. It set an example which might Induce the Country In General to break up. Pray see that my people are provided with Ammunition.

Make my love to Colo Renselaer & the family. Mrs. Schuyler & Betsy Join me in the warmest wishes for your Happiness. Adieu, I am My Dear Sir with Every sentiment of Esteem and affection, Your Obedient Huml Servt,

Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] Advise Colo. Van Vechter, Mr Dirk [Marsh?] & such others as you may think necessary either to the northward or westward of the Information I have given you respectg. the french fleet & land forces.

RC (NH: Lansing Papers).

¹ John Lansing, Jr. (1754-1829?), who had been Schuyler's secretary in 1776-77, was an Albany, N.Y., lawyer, a six-term member of the New York Assembly during the 1780s, and a delegate to Congress in 1785. *DAB*.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada May 24. 1780

I do myself the honour through you Sir to communicate to his most Christian Majesty, our illustrious Ally, the grateful Sense Congress entertain of his unremitted Attention to the Interest of these United States evidenced by his many great and generous Efforts in their Behalf; as expressed in their Act of the 22d Instant herewith enclosed.¹

You will also herewith receive the Acts and Proceeding of Congress in Consequence of the Communication you were pleased to make on the 16th Instant, by which you will be the better informed of the Measures adopted for effectually co-operating with our Ally against the Common Enemy.²

Permit me Sir to express the Pleasure and Satisfaction which I have received from the active Zeal and Ardour which the Minister of France hath manifested on all Occasions, and especially the present, to promote the Interest, and aid the Exertions of these United States.

I have the honour to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ *JCC*, 17:447.

² In his May 16 memorial to Congress, which was referred to a committee consisting of Oliver Ellsworth, Joseph Jones, and Robert R. Livingston on May 17, La Luzerne had reported France's decision to send substantial land and naval forces to America for the 1780 campaign and requested that the states be instructed to render assistance to such forces upon their arrival. See *JCC*, 17:433; PCC, item 95, 1:84-95; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:683-85.

The committee's recommendations were debated on May 18 and 19, when a number of resolves were adopted and sent to the states. And the committee submitted a "farther report" on the twentieth recommending that Lafayette confer with Washington on joint Franco-American operations and that La Luzerne be consulted "on the means of supplying the forces of his most Christian Majesty," which was immediately adopted and communicated to the commander in chief. *JCC*, 17:436-39, 442-43.

Samuel Huntington to Joseph Reed

Sir, Philadelphia 24 May 1780

I am now to lay before your Excellency an Act of Congress of the 22d Instant in Consequence of your Letter of the 6th Instant by which you will be informed of the Sentiments of Congress and the Measure they have adopted relative to Embargo, and in particular respecting the Delaware State in the present Situation of public Affairs.¹

I have the honor to be, with the highest regard, your Excellency's
humble servant,
Sam Huntington President

RC (Mr. Sol Feinstone, Washington Crossing, Pa., 1975). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ In his May 6 letter to Congress, President Reed complained that because Delaware had permitted its embargo to lapse after the congressional limitation expired on April 1, 1780, Pennsylvanians were transporting wheat and flour to Delaware for export from Wilmington, effectively nullifying the effect of Pennsylvania's embargo on provisions. PCC, item 69, 2:185-88; and *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:229-30. In response, Congress resolved to recommend that Delaware restore its provisions embargo "immediately," and "to continue the same until it shall be consistent with the public safety that the like embargoes should be discontinued in all the United States." *JCC*, 17:416, 446.

Huntington also sent a copy of this resolve to Delaware president Caesar Rodney this day. PCC, item 15, fol. 5. Three weeks later, Congress also resolved to seek "an immediate and decisive answer" from Delaware to this appeal, uncertain of the state's response and uneasy over mounting military pressures from the enemy. See Huntington to Caesar Rodney, June 14, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to William Shippen, Jr.

Sir, Philada May 24. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 23d Instant directing a Hospital to be erected by hiring a House for that purpose at or near New London in Connecticut for the reception of such sick American Prisoners as shall from time to time be exchanged and landed in that Neighbourhood.¹

You will lose no Time in giving the necessary Orders for carrying this Act of Congress into Execution.

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 5). Addressed: "The Director General of the Military Hospitals."

¹ See *JCC*, 17:447, and Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, May 20, note 2.

Committee at Headquarters to Certain States

Sir, In committee of Congress.
Circular No. 1. Morristown, 25th May, 1780.

Yesterday we were honored with a despatch from Congress, conveying to us their resolutions of the 19th instant, together with a copy of their circular letter of the same date, to the several States, from New-hampshire to Virginia, inclusive.¹

By one of the former we are appointed to assist the commander in chief in drawing out supplies for the Army, and the line of conduct we are to pursue, is pointed out in those subsequent: The whole

having been transmitted to your State, together with the circular letter, it is unnecessary to inclose your Excellency a copy. Immediately on the receipt of these papers, we laid them before the commander in chief, and entreated him to signify what supplies were immediately necessary to enable him to move the Army; and to put it in a condition to co-operate vigourously with the shortly expected succour of the great and generous ally of these States. This request we candidly avow, was made more with a view to preserve form in conducting business, than for want of competent information on the subject, that having already been fully detailed us by the General, and others, on former conferences, when acting as a committee of arrangements, he, consequently, had only to refer us to what had been before delivered us, by him and others, and which was in substance as follows. That the Army was five months pay in arrears; That it had seldom, or ever, since it took this cantonment, had more than six days provision in advance; That at present, it is without meat, and has been on half, and on quarter allowance, for some days past; That the commissaries cannot give any assurances of doing more than barely subsisting the troops, from day to day; That even then, they apprehend a want of meat will frequently prevail; That the Army is greatly deficient in camp equipage; That it is destitute of forage, for the few horses which indispensable necessity has required should be maintained in Camp;² That it will require several thousand horses to move the Army, so as to promise any effectual operation from it; That the sick in hospitals, have not a sufficiency of *those* articles necessary for their comfort; That carriages in considerable numbers are wanted; That the quarter master general has not a competent number of boats for the use of the Army, in case any offensive operations should take place; That he has no materials for constructing new boats, and carriages, nor even for repairing the old; That as every department of the Army is without money, and not even the shadow of credit left, consequently no article, however necessary, can be procured; That the transportation even of the inadequate supply of flour, forage, and other articles hitherto furnished by the States, is at a stand; That very few of the recruits required by the act of Congress, of the 9th of February last, have arrived; That from information received, there is no prospect that any considerable number will *timely* engage in the service, on voluntary enlistment; That by the expiration of the *terms* for which men were engaged, deaths and desertions, the Army is so greatly reduced, that it does not afford a probable prospect of its acting with any degree of efficacy in merely defensive operations; That the patience of the soldiery, who have endured every degree of conceivable hardship, and borne it with fortitude, and perseverance, beyond the expectations of the most sanguine, is on the point of being exhausted; That a spirit of discontent is encouraged by the arts of the enemy, whose emissaries hold up in printed papers, dis-

tributed among the soldiery, the most flattering prospects and promises, to induce them to desert their colours: The evidence given us in support of this detail of facts, has been fully corroborated by our own observations and enquiry; and painful as the contemplation of the distresses our country labours under, may be; we conceive it would have been inconsistent with our duty to have palliated, or disguised them, in an address to the constituents of that body under whose authority we act; as *they* ought, in our opinion, to be fully informed: For it is to them, this committee is directed to apply, and on them every reliance for relief and assistance must rest, in this very critical and important moment: But so far are we from desponding under this variety of embarrassment, that we reflect with satisfaction, the result of conviction, that the country is not destitute of the resources necessary to enable its Army to act with vigour, and to second the views of our illustrious ally; and that the legislative and executive powers of your State, impressed, as they are, with a just sense of the magnitude of the object, are equally desirous, as capable, of drawing them forth.

Congress, in their circular letter, has pointed generally at the measures necessary to be adopted by the States: We conceive it incumbent on us, in discharge of the trust reposed, to point more minutely at particulars, and in some measure to enter into a detail of *them*. We are encouraged to this, under a persuasion that the States will impute to our zeal, and affection for the interest and weal of our country, the liberty we take; and not to a spirit of dictating, which would be, equally improper, as presumptuous.

In a letter we had the honor to address Congress on the 16th instant, but which had not reached Philadelphia, when the circular letter and resolutions we have alluded to, were passed, we stated the little probability (which from the information we had obtained) there appeared to be, of completing the quota's of men, called for by the act of Congress, of the 9th of February last, by voluntary enlistment; and we conceived it requisite, to propose a set of resolutions, calculated to draw forth the intended complement of men for the Army, together with a state of the deficiencies—copy of which we have the honor to inclose persuaded that the States can with more facility, and much less expense, make drafts to serve during the campaign, than to engage men to serve during the war, and convinced, from repeated experience, that no reliance is to be made on gaining a sufficient number by voluntary enlistment, should the mode, we have proposed, be as agreeable to the sentiments of the legislature of your State, as it is to those of the commander in chief, we cannot entertain a doubt but that the measure will be adopted with alacrity, and executed with energy.

From the state we have made of the distressed condition of the Army, in point of provision, we are persuaded that every argument

to induce the utmost exertions to fill the magazines, which the commander in chief has directed to be formed, would be needless, as a matter of such importance will certainly claim the most immediate attention of the legislative and executive powers of the States.

Congress, in their act of the 25th of February last, have not called on the States for the transportation of any of the articles of supply, enumerated in that act, beyond the limits of the State furnishing the same. If the officers, whose business it is to direct the transportation, were, or could be furnished in *time*, with money, for that service, it would probably supercede the necessity of any intervention of the State: As they are not, nor is it probable they can *be*, even with the best exertions of the States, we humbly recommend, that authority be given by your legislature, to the executive authority, or to such other persons, as they may think proper, to furnish such carriage to the officers acting under the authority of Congress, or their committee, as may be needful, to convey those supplies, or any other, for the public use to the Army, or to such posts and places, where they may be required: And that until the public officers shall have cash in hand to pay for the same, we intreat the legislature of your State, to give assurances to its citizens, that speedy and effectual measures will be taken to make payment of the debts which may be thus incurred, and remain unpaid, with an interest of six per cent, per annum, as stated in the resolutions of Congress, of the 19th instant.

It is more than probable necessity will require, that some States should be called upon for additional supplies to those apportioned to them in the Act of Congress of the 25th of February last; both because our Army, and that of our ally, may take such a position, as that supplies from remote States cannot be brought; and because some States are so exhausted, that they cannot even furnish the quota's assigned them: It therefore becomes essential that similar powers to those stated in the preceding paragraph, should be lodged in the executive authority, or other persons, for furnishing such extra-supplies, on the application of this committee, or officers appointed for that purpose: And to this matter we also intreat permission to draw the attention of your legislature. As it would be hazarding too much to depend on the precarious supply of horses and carriages, which might be furnished by the inhabitants occasionally, to move the artillery, baggage, and stores immediately attached to the Army; and as the aid of the States to procure the horses and carriages in the present exhausted State of the public Treasury, is evidently necessary, we are also constrained to intreat the attention of your legislature to this capital object, and to request that the executive authority, or other persons, may be empowered to comply with the requisition of this committee, or persons by them authorized for that purpose, on the condition mentioned in the paragraph next preceding the last.

Having, Sir, stated the most material articles of the many which are wanted, we beg leave to urge the indispensable necessity of investing your executive authority, or such other persons as your legislature may judge proper to intrust, with ample power to comply with the requisitions of the committee, or other persons by them appointed, for that variety of articles necessary for an Army, and its appendages, and of which, no perfect enumeration can be made; and to rely for reimbursement out of the monies called for from the States. Had it been practicable to have stated the particular extra-supplies, which necessity will induce us to call for, from each State, for the support of the Army, and its operations, it would have been our duty to have done so: As it was not, we wish your legislature to believe, that the committee will pay every possible attention, in making requisitions for supplies, so as to render the burden as equal in proportion to the ability of each State, as their situation, and the nature of the service will by any means admit.

It is possible, Sir, that should even the deficiencies to complete the quota of troops apportioned to the States, in February last, join their corps as early as the exigency of affairs certainly require, aid of militia may nevertheless be called for by the commander in chief, and as so much depends on dispatch in offensive operations, we beg leave most earnestly to recommend, that such measures may be adopted as will, effectually draw forth this invaluable resource with as little delay as possible.

Having stated what appears to the committee absolutely requisite to be adopted and pursued by the States, permit us, Sir, to add we are authorized to communicate, *that* the naval and land force alluded to by Congress in their circular letter, was to have sailed so early from France, that they may be daily expected to arrive on this coast; That the orders given by the court of Versailles, for the line of conduct to be observed by their officers, in combining their force with ours, to operate against the common enemy, clearly evince the most unbounded confidence, and the most unequivocal determination, that it should be directed by *American councils* and rendered subservient to the interest of these States. This generosity, on the part of our illustrious ally, strongly points at the necessity of taking every precaution in our power, that his views may not be frustrated, nor his arms disgraced. Indeed we should be left without the shadow of an excuse, should we through inattention, or indecision, neglect to avail ourselves of the advantages to which such a capital succour is capable of being improved. We should degrade our character, disgrace our Arms; and evince to all the world, that we were either destitute of resources, wanted exertion to draw them forth; or wisdom to apply them; and either would tend to discredit our cause, and stamp these States with indelible stains of infamy: But Americans are incapable of such folly: They will see the necessity of risking

possible evils, nay even suffering certain, but temporary *ones*, with fortitude, and sacrificing a portion of property, if such sacrifice is necessary, rather than by withholding it involve themselves and their posterity in misery too painful to be contemplated without the deepest anxiety.

You, Sir, and the legislature of your State, we are fully convinced will, on this occasion, display with additional lustre that virtue and wisdom which have hitherto so eminently distinguished your councils, and, by taking the lead in exertion, will stimulate your citizens to such laudable acts as will amply intitle them to the invaluable blessings of that liberty, peace, and independence, for which they have fought, and bled.

The committee have only to add their wishes, that you, Sir, will be pleased to convene the legislature of the State with as much dispatch as possible, and to lay these our applications before them.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's,³ most obedient servants,

Philip Schuyler

John Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). In the hand of Abraham Brasher. Addressed: "N.B. from New-Hampshire to Virginia inclusive."

¹ For the "resolutions" and "circular letter" that the committee had received, see Samuel Huntington to Certain States, May 19, 1780.

² The problem of forage received immediate attention, for the committee also wrote this day the following brief letter to the Commissary General of Forage Clement Biddle. "Having inspected some chopped Oats this day, brought up for the use of the horses of the Army, we find it an exceeding bad quality, and this method of preparing it for use, liable to very great abuses. We desire you will immediately give order, for having this article brought forward in the grain for consumption, no more of it to be chopped." PCC, item 11, fols. 287-88.

The committee's directive apparently went unheeded, however, for on June 15 the committee sent the following letter to Biddle, "or his Assistt. at Camp." "Having already given you directions to Issue orders to those persons employed in procuring forage, for the use of the Army, not to have any more grain chopped for that purpose; and finding that it still continues to be sent on to the Army in that State—We therefore think it necessary to forbid your receiving any forage of that kind in future." Ibid., fol. 288.

³ At this point Brasher inserted an asterisk to which he keyed the following note at the foot of the page: "Note, 'Your Excellency' is the stile made use of in the circulars, to all the States, except Massachusetts and New Hampshire, whose presidents were addressed, 'your honor'."

Committee at Headquarters to Certain States

In Committee of Congress,
Sir, Circular, No. 2. May 25, 1780
Since we had the honor to address our letter of this day, his Ex-

cellency the Commander in Chief, has favoured us with one, copy whereof is inclosed.¹

Had the necessity of completing the regiments to the compliments he states, appeared to us as indispensable before, as it hath done since the receipt of his letter, we should not have hesitated a moment in recommending the measure, being now perfectly persuaded of its propriety.

We have the honor, to be, with great respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's, most Obt. Servts.,

P. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). This letter was apparently sent to the 10 northernmost states addressed in the committee's circular No. 1 of this date.

¹ For Washington's May 25 letter to the committee, which he wrote after the committee had solicited his reaction to the preceding circular letter to the states, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:416-19. "There is only one thing," Washington explained, "I should have been happy the Committee had thought proper to take up on a larger scale. I mean the supply of Men by Draught." This "mode" of obtaining men he considered necessary, because if the states merely strengthened their battalions to "the quotas assigned by the resolution of Congress of the 9th of February last," the number of "efficient troops" available for the forthcoming campaign would still fall short of the total needed.

Philip Schuyler to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Morris town May 25h. 1780

I have Deliverd Dr Craig Letters for the Honorable President of Massachusetts, and the Honorable President of New Hampshire, as these are of Equal Importance with that from the Committee to Your Excellency,¹ I have to Intreat they may be forwarded by Express and the Expençe charged the united States.

Accounts from Philadelphia Announce a naval engagement In the West Indies between the Grand fleets In that Quarter, In which that of our Illustrious Ally gained the day And Obliged the British to retire Into port. The particulars are not detailed, this account has been preceeded by rumours which give It the Complexion of truth, and we here believe It to be so.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with Sentiments of perfect Esteem & respect, Your Excellencys most Obedient and most Humble Servant,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Undoubtedly the committee's first circular letter of this date to the states.

James Duane to George Washington

My dear General,

Philadelphia 26th May 1780

We have Intelligence from Charles Town which leaves it in our possession as lately as the 3d or 4th Inst. and we may from the Silence of the Enemy at New York extend our Hopes to the 10th or 12th. The best and most direct Account is to our Friend Mr Jones from Gen Woodford. He has this moment promised me to communicate it to your Excellency which he will do much better than I can from my Memory;¹ otherwise I should attempt it. The Contempt with which Sir Henry Clinton treated the propositions of the Garrison is a sufficient proof of the strong Confidence he entertains of Success: and indeed the gradual Approaches, and the Contiguity, of his Works, which we have not been able to prevent, or even obstruct, free him from the Imputation of Presumption. The determin'd Resolution of the Garrison to defend the Town to the last Extremity will do honour to our Arms, and woud go far to relieve my Apprehensions, if I did not see the utmost probability of their being pushed from the only defensible Ground in our possession, by the Weight of a superior force, operating under an impenetrable Cover, with all the Advantages of deliberate Caution, and military Skill. If, under such discouraging Prospects, we shoud come off Conquerors it will be a further proof of one of the mottos which we have appropriated to our Cause, and often seen verified—nil desperandum! North Carolina is in motion, but something is always deficient. The want of arms is now the Cry!

A St. Kitts paper, which you have probably seen gives an Account of a naval Engagement between the French and English Fleets in the West Indies.² It is so palpably absurd that nothing can be collected from it, but that there has been a Rencontre. More Authentic Information is impatiently expected.

Be pleasd to present my respectful Compliments to Mrs. Washington, the Gentlemen of the Committee, and of the Family; and to give me leave to assure you, that with All possible Attachment and Regard—I have the Honour to remain, Dear Sir, your Excellency's most Affectionate & most Obedient huml Servant,

Jas. Duane

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ This letter from Joseph Jones has not been found, but Washington acknowledged receipt of it in a letter to Jones of May 31. Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:452-53.

² Undoubtedly an account of the April 17 battle between the French and British fleets in the West Indies.

William Churchill Houston to
William Livingston

Sir Philada. 26 May 1780

Your Excellency receives enclosed Resolutions of Congress of this Date, on the Subject of negotiating, in the Payment of Taxes, the outstanding Vouchers given by Persons employed in the Departments of the Commissary General of Purchases and Quarter Master General, for Articles furnished to the publick Service.¹ It is to be regretted that this Provision is not more adequate to the Relief of New Jersey, and a fuller Satisfaction of the Address of the Legislature of the 17th of March last. I will endeavour to give an Account of the State of this Proceeding.

The States of New-York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware are those in which such Notes or Certificates are principally on Hand. New-York has some Time since passed an Act for receiving them in Taxes, under certain Modifications and Conditions, which I need not describe as I took the Liberty to transmit a Copy to the Legislature at the last Sitting. No Measures have been taken respecting them in any of the other States that I have heard. It has been from Time to Time represented that the Taxes could not be collected, even for the last year, and much less for the present, because Payment of Arrears due to the Inhabitants from the publick Departments² was not made, by means of which many were unable to answer the collectors; and those who were able, but unwilling took advantage of the pretext.

The consistency of these resolutions with the proceedings of the 18th of March last was held a point of indispensible necessity. Nothing which has the color of an interference could be carried in Congress, but in cases of the last extremity. The taxes of two months are there appropriated to discharge outstanding debts, and I believe they are pretty competent to this end, even exclusive of other deficiencies not yet paid up or drawn for. If therefore one State takes in more Certificates than the quota thereof to the 1st of March last, the surplus must be paid to such state in cash from another state which takes in less or perhaps none; or from some other fund, so that the public measures may move in conformity with one another, and it is to be remarked by the way, that though the present mode is one attempt to pay off the public debts, it ought not to be looked upon as the only means, for those which are not satisfied in this way must be paid in money.³

It seemed absolutely necessary that these Notes or Certificates, as the Provision extends both to the manuscript and printed, should be received only from the Persons to whom they were originally given, because the destructive Inconveniences of their circulating as

Cash, and being open to Frauds, Impositions and Abuses of many Kinds, were to be obviated. The same caution suggested the Propriety of the Oath or Affirmation. I must however observe here, that if the Legislature find they have, in general, passed from the first Holders, and that the Transaction ought to be countenanced, as far as it has proceeded, it is not impracticable to give the Transferrees an opportunity to pay them in, under the Oath or Affirmation of those named in the Certificates, which might not be attended with bad Effects if confined to Transfers already made. In some Cases, indeed, this would be attended with Trouble, and in others it would be impossible; but I should think comparatively few. The Case of Executours and Administratours would also seem to require particular Attention.

I have not mentioned, what I have often suspected, that where assignments of these Certificates have been made the Purchasers have taken Advantage of the Sellers. Many of them may, perhaps, have been bought with the best Motives; but in such Cases as these the ignorant and credulous are too apt to become the Prey of the designing, and the far greater Number may have been obtained at a shameful and oppressive Discount. I have heard of Paymasters in the Army who, under *Pretence* of being without publick Money, have offered to buy Soldiers' Dues with *their own*, at one Half or two Thirds Value, and put the Proceeds of the Negotiation into their own Pockets. I do not say that any of the Staff Officers in the civil Departments of the Army have done such Things, or *procured* them to be done, for I do not know it. I am well assured many of them are too honest to be guilty of such management, but it is not the general Impression of the People that they are *all Saints*.

It will be noted that the Resolutions extend only to such Certificates as have been already given; and this will not I suppose, affect our State as the State-Purchasers have now the Business under their Direction, where doubtless a better Superintendence can be exercised, and more Honesty and Economy will take place.

In many Cases the Certificates paid in will be above the Amount of the Tax due from the Person paying them. Therefore that he may have Credit for the Surplus, and have it afterwards discounted, he ought to receive a Voucher as his Evidence from the Collectour, which the Law will particularly check and describe. And by examining the Resolutions of 6 October last, and those referred to, as well as of 5 January and 21 May preceding,⁴ it will appear a Matter of Consideration, whether the respective State ought not to be charged with the Interest on that Surplus, because an Interest is allowed to the State on the whole Amount paid in, of which this Surplus is a Part.

It was necessary to except, as in the Proviso, Orders already drawn, because they are generally, if not altogether for similar Purposes

with these Resolutions, to discharge the Debts of these large Staff-departments, and also the Requisition of the 19th instt⁵ for the express Purpose of putting the Army in a Condition to move, should Necessity require it, or the interesting Event, which we are taught to expect early in this Campaign, take Place.

On the whole of this Matter if the Legislature, upon Consideration of Facts and Circumstances, should find that the Provision made by these Resolutions will avail to the Relief of the People, in the Extent to which they are carried, it will be the more fortunate, as the Object will be attained without deranging other Parts of the publick Measures; but if, as I suspect, they are not adequate, the Legislature, as best able to judge, will determine how far they can be extended compatibly with the other Objects of publick Concern, particularly the Resolutions of 18th March last, and the Exertions of the opening Campaign. Could it be depended on that an Option to the Holders of the present Bills of Credit, to bring them in for Exchange with the new Bills to be emitted, so that the Benefit of the five Millions intended to be raised in the Course of the thirteen Months and a third, by the Plan of Finance lately recommended, might not be lost, would take and operate effectually, much might be ventured. There can be little reason to doubt it, if the advantages of a stable medium are duly considered; but it must also be confessed that no Certainty can be predicated of that which is not only future and contingent, but also depends on the different Ideas of so many different Individuals.

The Amount of the Continental Taxes due from the State to the 1st March last, is five Millions, two Hundred and seventy Thousand Dollars; the Orders drawn, including the Requisition of the 19th inst are to be counted against this; and how far the Balance will be over or under the Remainder of the Taxes paid in, the Knowledge the Members have of the State of the Collection in the different Counties, will enable the Legislature to decide. I have more than once heard it mentioned, that in the Counties where few publick Purchases had been made the Taxes were generally paid up, but that great Arrears remained in the Counties where such Purchases had been principally made and of Course these notes or Certificates given.

It is to be recollected that by the Resolution of 6 March,⁶ it was recommended to the State to take Order respecting the Purchases made in Consequence of General Washington's requisition of last winter. Part of the supply then sent to the army, was, I suppose, procured by the State-Purchasers, and Part by the Continental Agents, and many of the Debts yet unpaid will probably fall under the Provisions made by these Resolutions.

I am to inform Your Excellency that we have, as yet, no further Information from the Southward, tho that Charlestown becomes more and more closely begirt by the Enemy. Very little Damage has

been done, but the force of the Besiegers is so vastly superiour, that in the common Course of Events, every possible Effort will be insufficient to check their approaches. The Garrison behave gallantly, and when it comes to the article of storming will it is to be hoped, not be found wanting in that Respect.

I have the Honour to be, Your Excellency's most obedt and very hble Servant,

William Ch. Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers). Tr (MH-H: Sparks transcripts).

¹ See Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 22, 1780, note.

² At this point a page is missing from the RC. Text taken from Tr.

³ Remainder taken from the RC.

⁴ See *JCC*, 13:28-29, 14:626, 15:1147-48.

⁵ *JCC*, 17:437-39.

⁶ *JCC*, 16:234.

Robert R. Livingston to Philip Schuyler

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 26th May 1780

I wrote to you by the Marquiss to which Letter¹ I have not been favoured with your answer. Since the departure of Mr. Mathews nothing material has been transacted relative to the grand business tho' a committee of which I am chairman has made a report thereon which lays on the table.² I moved to recall Lees corps but was under the necessity of withdrawing my motion or disgusting all our friends since (as I expected) the eastern people in order to regain their confidence opposed the motion. I am happy that the Genl. has determined upon it since the strongest argument against the measure was the Generals not having recommended it.³ So that much as he may desire it, it will be impossible to recall the Maryland line except the Genl. shall himself undertake it which I now fear it will be too late to do. Our accounts from Charles town are by no means encouraging, the enemy have brought their approaches to the wet ditch on the 24th. Genl. Lincoln beat a parly & offered terms of capitulation which the enemy rejected with great haughtiness, on which it [was?] determined to defend the place to the last extremity, which is I suppose in other words till the enemy come to their terms. Indeed unless they are hurried by the information they have received I am very fearful that all the galantry of the Garison will not save them. We have made several attempts to bring on the business of Vermont without success,⁴ & what will surprize you is that New Hampshire has always voted against us. He⁵ tells me that Mr. Livermore has taken away their papers, tho the report we have got upon the subject by no means renders them necessary. Pray mention this to Mr. Peabody & press upon him the necessity of returning unless he means

to have the vote of the State entered upon the journals of Congress against its essential interests, if he supposes they have any in this controversy.

You will feel with me for poor Morris' misfortune, & will therefore receive some satisfaction in being informed that he is in a fair way of recovery. Present my compts. to the Genl. & the family & the Marquiss. I need not mention the ladies, for they are of course included in remembrances.

I do not know whether you have it still in view to make your preparation towards Canada. If you should an expedient which I mentioned to the Marquiss would give it some complection—The ordering boats to be built to the northward—The sending Arnold to command there since the enemy would naturally conclude that if any thing of that kind is in Agitation he would be employed & if known at Philadelphia they will not long be ignorant of it. If it shd. be inconvenient to him perhaps it might be sufficient to let him be served with an order (with private permission to stay where he is) & in the mean while to make publick preparations for his departure. We have accounts of a very severe engagement between the fleets in the West Indies but nothing from which we can form any other judgment, than that they treated each other very roughly, & made a drawn battle of it. I am Dear Sir, with great esteem, Your Most Obedient & Hum. Servt

Robt. R. Livingston

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ See Livingston to Schuyler, May 21, 1780.

² The report of the committee "appointed to confer with the Minister of France on the subject of supplies," to follow up decisions reached on May 19 concerning the anticipated arrival of French troops enroute to America, was read in Congress this day. For this report and resolves adopted the following day to implement the committee's recommendations concerning the preparation of Continental ships to be deployed in cooperation with the French fleet, see *JCC*, 17:466-69; *PCC*, item 25, 1:197-98; and Samuel Huntington to the States, May 29, 1780.

³ For the considerations involved in countermanding the original decision to assign Maj. Henry Lee's legion to the southern department for the relief of Charleston, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, June 6, 1780, note.

⁴ See New York Delegates to George Clinton, May 21, 1780, note 4.

⁵ That is, Nathaniel Folsom.

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

D'r Sir,

Morris Town, May 26th 1780.

Should the State agreeable to General Washington's Request compleat the regiments to 504, I conceive it will Suffice instead of a new draft, to Convert the 800 men now raising to that purpose, tho probably the Situation of affairs will require they should remain to the Northward. If so—I would advise the State to inform the general

of it, as I shall be on the Spot & will try to remove any difficulty which might arise.

Letters from Philadelphia announce a Naval engagement in the West Indies between the two capital fleets in that quarter, in which the French Flag was triumphant and drove the British into port. The particulars are not Stated; corroborating advices have also been received from the Eastward, and both wear the Complexion of truth.

A Dangerous mutiny has taken place in a Connecticut Brigade; the Soldiery insist on returning home.¹ It is for the present quelled, but we have too much reason to apprehend that it will shew itself soon and more seriously unless provisions arrive. The Officers live chiefly on bread & water to give the men all they can, and the latter have for ten days past much oftener been without than with any and at no time when that period have they had more than half allowance. Our greatest distress is in the article of meat. I have the honor to be, Dear Sir, most Sincerely your Excellency's Obedient Humble Serv't
Ph: Schuyler.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:759-61. RC (N:Clinton Papers). Charred.

¹ For the mutiny of two regiments of the Connecticut Line at Morristown on May 25, see Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, May 28, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Dear Sir,

Philada. 27 May 1780

I have the Pleasure to acknowledge your Excellency's Favour of 24 inst received by the Hands of Mr. Clarke. Mr. Hand has been so obliging as to call on me to-day and will deliver this with mine of yesterday to your Excellency. I have some Reason to believe he will be an Accession to the Affirmative for the Finance bill. Having no particular News I shall not trouble you farther.

Am your Excellencys most obedt and very hble Servt.

William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

Samuel Huntington to the Marquis de Bouille

Sir,

Philada May 27. 1780

I am honoured with your Letter of the 23d of March last by Mr Bingham.

It gives me Pleasure to find that the Conduct of that Gentleman hath made himself agreeable to the French Nation and more especially that it meets with your Approbation.¹

By the Information I have received from Mr Bingham and Captain Harding of the Confederacy, I cannot but acknowledge your favourable Interposition and Aid manifested to Captain Harding, and the ready Assistance granted him in repairing the Frigate.

We have just received Intelligence via St Kitts, there hath been an Engagement between the French and British Fleets in the West Indies, we are anxious to hear the particulars; it is said several British Officers were by Admiral Rodney put under Arrest for Misconduct in the Engagement, which gives us reason to hope the French Fleet gained an Advantage in the Action.

I have the Pleasure to inform you, that the Chevalier de la Luzerne the Minister of France is in good Health and much respected with us. I the rather mention this because Rivington the British Printer in New York hath lately published an Account that the People here were highly disgusted with him, which occasioned the Minister to repair to General Washington's Camp where he died by the Hand of Violence;² than which nothing could be more false and scandalous and might give Concern to the Ministers Friends if not detected.

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 14). Addressed: "Le Marquis de Bouille Governor General of the French West India Islands. &c. *This is not an Official Letter & recorded through Mistake."

¹ Bouille's letter commending William Bingham, dated "a la Martinique 23 mar 1780," is in PCC, item 90, fols. 218-21.

² This rumor had appeared in the May 3 issue of James Rivington's *Royal Gazette*.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress.

Sir,

Morris Town May 28th. 1780

We do ourselves the honor to inclose your Excy a Copy of our circular letter to the States—of one from the Commander in Chief to us on the subject of the former—Of our second circular letter—And an abstract of the returns alluded to in the first.¹ Alarming & numerous as the facts stated in those letters are, we most sincerely wish they were not, in reality heightened, & increased since.

In our letter of the 9th Inst. to Congress,² we observed That, if the spirit of discontent, which then prevailed among the Soldiery should fully establish itself, It would be productive of the most serious consequences. The causes which contributed to the first rise of dissatisfaction continuing, have increased & ripened into mutiny. Two

entire regiments of the Connecticut line, paraded on Thursday Evening with their arms, accoutrements, & packs, intending to march off, & return to the State. They complained of inability any longer to endure the torture of famine, & the variety of distress they experienced. On this serious occasion the Officers displayed a wisdom & prudence, which does them honor. Their exertions reduced the disorder to bounds of moderation, & the Soldiery were prevailed on to desist from intentions, as injurious to their Country, as derogatory to their honour. They retired to their huts, with passions cooled down indeed, but with evident signs of discontent, & Chagrin, & left their Officers with the painful reflection, that a repetition of similar distresses was only wanting to compleat a scene, which they cannot contemplate without horror. The brave, Patriotic & virtuous band of Officers, in every line, had already given up their rations to the soldiers, & submitted literally to bread & Water, as their only sustenance. By this scanty fair, they continue to set an example to, & keep the Soldiery in tolerable temper. But with tears in their eyes (such as men who fall for the distresses of their Country may shed without pusillanimity) they stated their apprehensions, that the dissolution of the army was at hand, unless constant supplies of *provisions* at least were kept up.³

Persuaded, sir, that to be silent on such occasions, would be criminal, We will address our Compeers with Decency, but with Freedom. We will advise them, that something more is necessary, than mere recommendation, or they will lose an army, & thereby risk the loss of an Empire. Times & exigencies render it sometimes necessary for the governing power to deviate from the strict lines of conduct which regular Constitutions prescribe. And when such deviation is necessary for the preservation of the whole, It is incumbent on rulers to put themselves on the Judgment of their Country, to stand acquitted, or condemned by it. Such times, such exigencies, such deviations, have heretofore taken place—They are marked on the Journals of Congress: And the honest Patriot reflects with gratitude that there were men who at all hazards dared to save their Country. We intreat Congress seriously to consider Whether such times & exigencies do not now exist. If they do, shall Posterity say, that those who directed the affairs of America, at this era, were less intrepid, more attentive to personal consequences than their Predicessors. Heaven forbid the thought! Our affairs it is true are alarmingly deranged, but bold & decisive measures adopted, & prudently executed will restore all. Our Prestine vigour will be renewed, & the contest end in a glorious expulsion of the minions of a Tyrant.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Yr. Excys. most obed. servts.

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Mathews and signed by Mathews, Peabody, and Schuyler.

¹ See the committee's circular letters of May 25 to the states.

² The letter was actually dated May 10.

³ For Washington's description of the mutiny of the Connecticut Line, see his May 27 letter to Huntington, in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:428-29.

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

Dear Sir,

Morristown, May 28th 1780.

Your Excellency's favor of the 25th Instant with the papers which were Inclosed, I had the honor to receive at five yesterday afternoon;¹ I was with the Commander in chief when it came to hand, and afforded him an Immediate perusal of it; he did me the honor to Intreat my opinion on the possibility of Subsisting any troops he might detach to the northward during their rout and after their arrival at the point of Operation; I did not hesitate to decide that they could be, relying on your Excellency's usual Exertion, and on that of a Legislature pervaded with Spirit and decission as ours is; General Clinton's brigade will in Consequence march for New Windsor tomorrow morning; a want of Carriage induces a delay of this day.

I have promised General Washington to point out the necessary arrangements to move and supply the troops from Windsor, whence they must proceed in Sloops, but as of these, the number there will be inadequate to Embark one thousand one hundred men (the amount of the Brigade). I have to Intreat that measures be adopted to hasten from Esopus and its vicinity whatever water Craft may be proper on the occassion to rendezvous at Windsor with every degree of dispatch possible; The necessity of sending live stock or salted meat on board of the vessels for the Subsistence of the troops at least for the voyage to Albany, as well as flour will appear evident, when I Inform you that the army has been on Quarter allowance of meat for many days past, that the last is Issued, and that General Clinton's Brigade will march without any. There are times and Exegencys, Sir, when it becomes the patriot to risk the judgment of his Country, and for the good of the whole to dare a deviation from strict constitutional rules; this Exigency appeared to me now, and I have ventured to advise General Clinton to Impress what may be Indispensible for the subsistence of his troops and to accelerate their movements.

Altho engaged with little relaxation in the arduous task assigned the Committee of which I am one, I hope so to arrange matters as to be in a condition to commence a journey to Kingston in two or three days, to give that Information to the legislature which it is my duty to afford them as a servant of the state in Congress, and to

Contribute every aid in my power in the present distresses of a country so dear to me.

I have the honor to be, with the most perfect sentiments of respect and Esteem, your Excellency's most obedient & most Humble Servant,

Ph: Schuyler.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:767-69. RC (N: Clinton Papers). Charred.

¹ For Clinton's May 25 letter to Schuyler, enclosing "disagreeable Intelligence" of threats to "the northern & western Frontier Settlements" which he requested Schuyler to communicate to Washington and to Congress, see *ibid.*, pp. 754-55.

Philip Schuyler to George Washington

My Dear Sir

Morris town May 28h 1780

The queries which your Excellency has stated, and on which you have done me the honor to request my opinion, are on a Subject so exceedingly Interesting and Important that I feel my Inability to consider It as extensively, as you wish, I shall however attempt to state my Ideas on the Occassion, and to regard It in every point of view I am able.¹

It seems requisite in order to enable us to determine with any degree of precision when the enemy can be attacked to the greatest "advantage" to take a view of the probable consequences which would result from commencing the operations in the southern quarter, in preference to this.

The enemy continuing in a divided state, and Charles town not yet reduced, we should in All human probability by pointing the Operations to Carolina not only releive Charles town, preserve the Garrison In It, secure the Southern States, But damp the hopes of the disaffected, Increase the Confidence of our friends in every part of the Continent, and we might even expose the British to the loss of their Army under Sir Henry Clinton. If of all these possible advantages we could only ensure the safety of Charles town and the Garrison, It would have so happy an Influence on our affairs that I should not hesitate to advise our first Attention to be turned that way, but the Objections which present themselves to such a measure appear to me many, and weighty, and the Obstacles, If not Insurmountable, yet seem not far from It—permit me to State them.

The French Armament will probably arrive at an Eastern port, the sick, the Stores, not Immediately necessary, and the whole of the troops must I conceive be debarked there If a Southern Expedition is to take place, because the transports will require to be fitted for the reception of such troops of ours as It would be necessary to reinforce the french with—for the horses for the use of the Artillery, this with the reembarkation of the troops, the horses, the necessary

forrage and water (supposing all to be previously procured) would together with other Incidental delays take up considerable time, let us suppose three weeks, as much more time would probably Elapse in Compleating the voyage to Carolina, hence It would bring us to the Middle of August before the fleet could reach the vicinity of Charles town (If the French force arrived by the first of July on this Coast) without making any Allowance for delays, which the fleet may experience In the voyage to Carolina, from the danger of the seas, or by falling in with a British one. It may therefore I think be fairly concluded that before the Armament could reach the point of destination, *The town must be reduced and the Garrison captured, or the Siege be raised.* Let us now suppose the two first of these Events to have happened, and Sir Henry Clinton with his Army still In that Country. In this case I conceive we could not reasonably promise to ourselves Success, Either In an attempt to recover the town, to operate against the british in Georgia, to Attack their army, or to destroy their fleet. 1st. Because I apprehend we could not reinforce the French troops with more than five thousand of our own, If with so many, for altho we might with Considerable exertion send a Competent Supply of flour, as we have no Salted meat, as none can be cured until October at soonest, and as Live Stock cannot be Conveyed thither, they will fail In provision, unless the Country can afford a Supply and that would be too precarious to rely on from a Country at least partly In the Enemys possession and which at best I believe is not well Stocked. 2dly. admitting every difficulty on the score of provisoiins Obviated; The force I have Stated, I conceive would not be equal to the reduction of Charles town, If covered by the British troops now there, nor even to that of Savannah as the enemy may speedily march to its relief. 3dly. Granting that the Combined force had gained a footing In the Country, and where In such force as to face the Enemy In the field Yet he will in that case probably take such a position as would render an attempt to dislodge him exceedingly hazardous, If not Impossible, Especially Strengthened as he will be by the disaffected; nor would their fleet be in danger as their frigates and transports would be In the Harbour of Charles town, and their Heavy Ships have In all probability left that coast as being of no use there.

Let us next take a view of our prospects. If when our force arrives In Carolinas *Charles town should be reduced, a Garrison left there and another in Savanna, and Sir Harry at New York with the remainder of his troops,* then as Our force here would be Incompetent to any Offensive operations we must Content ourselves In this quarter to those merely defensive, and the whole operations of the Campaign will be reduced to An attempt for the recovery of Charles town or Savanna, uninformed of the Situation and strength of the latter I cannot guess at what might probably be the Event of an Attack upon It but If It be fair to draw a conclusion from the difficulties which the british with

a well appointed Army and probably in force equal to any we could send, experience the Siege of that place, we shall not have much reason to believe that we could reduce It and that too at a more unfavorable Season of the year, when Storms prevail which would expose the Ships on an open Coast, to much danger.

If the siege is raised and the british retired to N York, then we shall have no Object to the southward but Savanna and that would then be too Inadequate an one to Claim our attention so far, as to send a force from hence unless we should find ourselves unable to make an attempt on N York.

But after all It is *possible* that affairs may be In such a posture when the french fleet arrives, as to render a southern operation apparently Indispensible, both because It would probably best promote the Interest of the States in General, eradicate the Idea which has prevailed In the more southern states that they were neglected, and because It would Immoveably fix that confidence which the States and all orders of men in them so justly place In you, and which It is so essential to the true Interest of this country should not be diminished. I will state the possible case—If Sir Henry Clinton from Personal Considerations should be Induced at all hazard to expose the british In this quarter, after having been advised of the Intentions of France in our favor, or If relying on naval assistance from England for N York, he should Obstinatey persevere in maintaining the Siege of Charles town, things being thus Circumstanced when the french fleet arrives on the Coast, I think It should be directed to proceed to Charles town with every possible degree of dispatch, for altho the french troops Joined to our troops In that quarter might not be able Essentially to Injure the Enemy In the field, yet It is more than probable that they would be obliged to raise the siege and the town and Garrison be secured to us—directions would In this case be given to the fleet, If advice was received during the voyage to Carolina, as that the siege was raised, or the town reduced, Immediately to put back and attempt to gain the bay of NYork, before the british could arrive. I take many liberties my Dear Sir but as they proceed from the best affections of the humane heart, your goodness and your Candor will be my best apology.

If then It should be deemed Ineligible to commence our operations In the Southern quarter except Impelled to It under the Circumstances last stated, there seems no other object *within* these states worthy our attention but N York, and the Conduct to be Observed in Operating against It is next to be considered. In doing this I shall premise that the force you have stated as necessary is really drawn into the field and that the supplies are adequate to their support, that the fleet makes the American coast west of N York.

As the success of the Enterprize against N York would be almost reduced to a Certainty If the fleet was In the bay of New York And

could maintain Itself there; If therefore It arrives at any of the Southern capes, I would advise that their store ships (I mean those that convey such stores as are not necessary in the operation) should push into Delaware, and that the Ships of war And the transports should without a moments delay push for the hook, and that the former Should Immediately after attempt the passage Into the harbour. If they succeed and the british not have left Staten Island when the fleet gets In, they will probably retire by Bergen Point and Cross to New York under cover of the batteries at Powles Hook—but least they should remain on the Island with a view to oppose the french troops It may be necessary to draw a body of our troops to such a position as that they may be Speedily thrown on the Island In order so to divide the Enemies force as that the french troops may debark without risque. Having gained the bay, and the british either relieved from Staten Island or be reduced on It, the next necessary step seems to be to gain footing on Long Island. It would not I believe be prudent to suffer the French troops to land on Long Island unsupported by ours as they might experience a defeat. It therefore appears necessary that they should be reinforced on Staten Island with so many of ours as would make them at least equal to the Enemys whole force; or that a body of ours should be previously thrown on Long Island from Hellgate or Its vicinity—but as the Enemy can so easily combine all their troops either on York or Long Island, It seems necessary before either the french or any of ours land on the latter, that we Should have gained York Island or secured the communication by Hell Gate, and perhaps It would be prudent to attempt this with the whole of the American force, and Even to approach the City, Invest It, and fortify our Camp; If footing can be gained on York Island and afterwards make the detachment for Long Island—here It is a question If It would Still be prudent to suffer our detachment and the french troops to land at two different points on Long Island as one or the other might be attacked by half at least of the british force, If it should be deemed Imprudent then Circumstances must determine, wether our detachment should Cross Into Jersey and Join the french on Staten Island to proceed from thence to Long Island, or If the latter should by the way of Jersey come to York Island and the whole proceed thence to Long Island, I say circumstances must determine on the propriety of the one or the other of those movements, as the enemys position on the Island may be, or our means of conveyance enable us.

As the French fleet would be exposed to a disaster If the Superior one of the Enemy should approach whilst we were operating against N York Every possible precaution Should be adopted to prevent the Enemys Shipping from forcing their way up. How far this may be Effected by throwing obstructions In the Channel, and by land Batteries to aid the men of war I am far from being able to determine,

having only a very Slender knowledge of the Country & the waters in that quarter. At any rate It appears to me prudent, if practicable, that the transports after having discharged the Men and necessary apparatus, should retire Either to Delawar or Providence.

If the french fleet should arrive at an Eastern port, I conceive It advisable after having debarked the Sick that It should proceed to the Hook with every possible degree of dispatch leaving the transports to be disposed of in manner hereafter to be mentioned, for If they attend the fleet Its arrival at the Hook will be retarded by the necessary attention to the transports; they may meet a British fleet and the Incumbrance of the transports may prove very detrimental, they must In attempting to gain the bay of New York probably leave some Ships without to protect the transports and thereby their Acting force will be diminished. The delay in coming round with the transports may give time for a British fleet to arrive and Should Even an Inferior one heave In sight whilst the fleet and transports are off the Hook, a penetration Into the harbour will hardly be attempted; I am aware that these Objections to attempt going In with the transports Militates against what is recommended In the preceeding paragraph, but there appears no Alternative; for the transports In that case, must Either proceed with the fleet into the bay of New York or at least to within the Hook, or the whole fleet must go to Rhode Island, for I conceive the Admiral would not risque the Transports by themselves, or even under Convoy of his Frigates only; If the whole fleet proceeds past the hook to Rhode Island It is probable three weeks will Elapse before they can return as they will probably be under the necessity of watering at Rhode Island, and If In the Interim the British Naval force at N York Should be reinforced, It might be Impossible to Obtain the bay of N York with the French fleet. If then the fleet arrives at Rhode Island and the Ships of war only go round, the transports under Cover of the French and Such frigates of ours as we can collect might proceed up the Sound, and the troops be landed at New Haven, and the other western ports In Connecticut, after which to retire to New London or Providence. This mode of debarking The french troops will of necessity Induce another disposition of Your force to Commence the operations. Perhaps, It would not In this case be unadvisable, to Combine the whole of the French and American forces In Westchester County, towards York Island, forming a line, from Hudsons River to Westchester town. In this Situation If the Enemy on York Island Should appear disposed to dispute Your passage across Haerlem River, and It be deemed too hazardous to make the attempt In their face, A fortified Camp might be occupied In the Vicinity of Hell Gate, and a force Equal to the whole of the British thrown on Long Island, to Invest the fortifications at Brooklyn, then on the point of being Invested will probably Induce the British to quit the northern parts of York

Island, If so the troops In Westchester will Cross Haerlem River and take post on the Island either on the Heights above Haerlem or approach the City to Invest It, as they may be In force or not, I have hitherto Supposed that Your force will be Equal to an operation against Brooklyn and the City at once, If so this would Accelerate the reduction of Both—but If not; and If your force on York Island is too weak to Invest the town, I would then advise that the Communication with Long Island by Horns Hook or Turtle Bay should be well Secured and part of the troops from Long Island be made to Cross to York Island, or visa versa, as Circumstances, which will be better ascertained on the Spot, may direct. But If the Enemy Should retire Into their works In the vicinity of the City as soon as you Appear in force on the North side of Harlem river, I think It would then be advisable to proceed to York Island Immediately and with the whole force Invest the City, and strongly fortify a Camp, before any detachment is made to Long Island.

The Events which have taken place Since I was honored with Your Excellencys Queries have Superceeded the necessity of what is observed in the former part of this letter² on the Subject of the Southern States, and also of answers to some of the Queries that do not relate to that quarter. The Estimates given to Congress & the States have been Explicit as to the number of Troops you ought to be furnished with to give a full prospect of Success In a Cooperation with the French Naval and Land force. I am Still of Opinion that number is necessary, altho there are Considerations which induce me to advise that the attempt Should be risqued with 30000 men Actually Employed In the sieges, provided that two thirds of them are regular troops.

I wish I had been more Equal to the subject, and more Capable of Expressing myself with propriety and perpsicuity on It—this want with every error in Judgment Your Candor will make Allowances for.

You have an arduous Campaign Opening on you. It is the duty of Every Good Citizen to afford you his aid, and I do most Earnestly Intreat you, to lay your Commands on me; without the least hesitation and on every Occasion In which you may think I can render you A Service, and be assured that I will Strive to Execute them with that Alacrity which the warmest Affection & Sincerest Esteem is capable of Inspiring.

I am, Dr Sir, Sincerely, Your Excellency's Most Obedient Huml
Servant,

Ph. Schuyler

July 7th 1780

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ For Washington's May 21 "queries" to which Schuyler is here responding, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:398-400.

² Schuyler clearly began composing his response to Washington's questions on May 28 and apparently completed most of it at that time or shortly thereafter. In his June 5 letter to James Duane, he referred to this "answer," but without acknowledging the surrender of Lincoln's army at Charleston, the circumstance to which he is obviously referring here. Schuyler undoubtedly drafted these final paragraphs between the time he learned of that event and the "July 7th 1780" date appended at the close of the letter, but probably after he returned to headquarters on July 5, for which see Schuyler to John Mathews and Nathaniel Peabody, July 6.

Samuel Huntington to John Bradford

Sir, Philadelphia May 29. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 27th Instant directing you to dispose of three Hundred Hogsheads of the Sugar in your Hands as Continental Agent, for Money, and transmit the same to the Continental Treasury without Loss of Time notwithstanding any former resolution of Congress to the contrary.¹

I am Sir &c, S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "John Bradford Esquire Agent at Boston."

¹ See *JCC*, 17:470-71. For the "former resolution of Congress to the contrary," apparently one adopted December 2, 1779, instructing Continental agents not to dispose of prize goods coming into their hands, except perishables, "without orders for that purpose," see *JCC*, 15:1342.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen, Philadelphia May 29. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed three Acts of Congress, of the 19th, 26th & 27th Instant, by which you will be informed among other Matters, of the Measures adopted by Congress to obtain the necessary Supplies for the Army, as also to aid & assist our Ally in obtaining such Supplies as they may need, and to facilitate the Co-operation of such combined Forces as may be engaged in the approaching Campaign.¹

The Act of the 16th² would have been forwarded at an earlier Period for your Information and Direction had I not understood that the Honble Mr Mathews was possessed of it before he last left the City.

We are yet kept in anxious Suspence respecting Charles Town.

I have the honour to be, with Esteem and Respect, gentlemen,
your most obedt & hbble servant,

Sam. Huntington President³

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:437-39, 463-69.

² That is, 19th. For his original distribution of this "Act," see Huntington to Certain States, May 19, 1780.

³ This day Huntington also wrote to John Skey Eustace informing the former major that his petition for compensation pursuant to Congress' April 10 resolution adjusting officers' pay for inflation had been denied. In recommending this action to Congress, the Board of War had argued that benefits under the April 10 resolve were limited to officers "who were then, or should thereafter be in service," and Eustace had already resigned his commission. See *JCC*, 16:344-45, 17:429, 462; and PCC, item 15, fol. 7; item 41, 3:53-56.

Samuel Huntington to the States

Sir, Circular Philadelphia May 29. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith inclosed two Acts of Congress of the 26th & 27th Instant. The former recommending to those of the States where Debts are due to their Inhabitants from the Quartermasters and Commissary's Department by Notes or Certificates given as mentioned in the Act; to make Provisions for discounting & discharging such Debts by empowering the Collectors to receive them in Payment of the Taxes due to the first of March last in the Manner prescribed in the Act.¹ It is hoped this mode may prove beneficial in those States where considerable Debts are due under the Circumstances before mentioned and in those States can the Act be properly applied.

By the Act of the 27th, you will be informed of the measures adopted by Congress to equip for Sea the naval Force of the United States with the utmost Expedition, as also their Recommendation to the Several States to adopt the necessary Measures for promoting Harmony and forwarding the common Views of France & America as expressed in the Resolution inclosed;² which it is not to be doubted will meet with due Consideration and Attention from the several States and receive the necessary Aid of the Legislatures to carry the same into Execution as speedily as the Nature of the Case will admit. With great Respect, I have the honour to be, your, Excellency's humble servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ *JCC*, 17:462-66. For the circumstances that led to the adoption of this "Act" of the 26th, see Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 22, 1780, note.

² *JCC*, 17:466-69. For the background to these provisions for promoting Franco-American cooperation, see Huntington's letters to the States, May 19, and to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780.

Huntington also enclosed these May 27 resolves with a brief letter to La Luzerne, this date. PCC, item 15, fol. 7.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia May 29. 1780

I have been honoured with your Letter of the 19th Instant covering duplicate Despatches for Governor Rutledge, one of which I sent forward by Express the same Hour it came to hand and sent the other by the Post.¹

Enclosed your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 26th Instant submitting to your Discretion the Mode of carrying into Execution the Act of Congress of the 21st of April respecting an Agent or Commissary of Prisoners.²

I have also enclosed a Copy of the Communication received from the Minister of France of the 16th Instant, which should have accompanied my former Despatches with the Acts of Congress of the 17th & 20th Instant,³ of which last mentioned Acts I have also enclosed Copies, there being an Error committed by the Secretary in the former Copy, which you will please to note, in the Act of the 20th, *The Committee at Head Quarters* are said to be requested to confer with the Minister of France, on the means of supplying the Forces of his most Christian Majesty &c where as it should be, *the Committee who brought in the report* as expressed in the Copy inclosed.

We still remain in anxious Suspense respecting the Fate of Charles Town.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect & Consideration, your Excellency's most obedt & most humble servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ The journals do not record the receipt of Washington's May 19 letter and there is no copy of it in PCC. It has been printed from the draft in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:385.

² See *JCC*, 17:462; and Huntington to Washington, April 22, note 1.

³ See Huntington to Washington, May 20, note 2.

Abraham Clark to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. May 30 1780

Last evening and this morning we were Amused in the Town by a Report from Charles Town that the Enemy having made two Assaults on the 8th & 9th Inst. had been repulsed with the loss of about two thousand killed & wounded; And that a French fleet was off the Bar & had taken possessn. of Stono & the Shipping there. These flattering Accounts upon enquiry Appears to have but little foundation; I can find no intelligence to be relied upon more than con-

tained in the enclosed extracts which were taken from Mr. Lawrences Letters from Wilmington in North Carolina.¹

Mr. Houston being absent to visit his family & Mr. Fell confined with a fever, Our State is unrepresented, tho' it is probable Mr. Fell will soon be able to Attend as he Appears to be on the mending hand.

We have officially from New Hampshire, Massachusets & Connecticut that they have passed the Laws on Finance Agreeable to the Resolutions of the 18th of March.

I have the honour to be with due respects, Your Excellencys Obedt.
Humble Servt. Abra. Clark

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ These "extracts" from three Henry Laurens' letters, dated May 12, 15, and 16, reporting military activities in South Carolina are in the William Livingston Papers, MHi.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sr,

Morristown May 30th. 1780

I do my self the Honour to address your Excellency at a time when the fate of these United states are pregnant with the most alarming events that ever attended them since the commencement of this Un-natural War. And was I to remain silent I should think I justly deserved the Curses of every *Freeman* in the state that sent me forward. I asure you upon my Honour the following narative is drawn from facts stated by his Excellency Genl Washington Confirmed and avowed by Genl Green and the Committee from Congress with which corresponds my own observations for three days past.¹ That from every enquiry and observation that I have been able to make they all so far corespond as to authorise me to declare officially that the Circular letter from the Committee of Congress contains impartial representations of the distresses and imbarresments the Army labour under. Since which the Commander in Cheif hath had the Mortification to se[e] Two whole Regts. from the Conecticut line parade with their arms, packs &c determined to leave this land of Misery, disband and return home. Had it not been for the timely exertions of a number of officers (who have done great honour to themselves) it is more than probable the matter would have become serious and the whole Troops marched off the ground.² His Excellency is still under the dismal apprehensions that the moment is not far distant when such an event will take place. In a word the imbarasments under which the Commander in chief now labours is of such a complicated, distressing nature that they could not be borne by a less *exalted Soul*. I want words to express the feeling manner in which he

represents his distresses and his fears of the Countrys being subjugated to the power of Britain. The Committee from Congress appear to be no less alarmed. Every appearance bears a completion at this place sufficient to convince every thinking man that nothing can save us from distruction but a spirited exertion in the several states and drawing forth the rescources of the Country, for which I cannot doubt the state of Rhode Island, makes her utmost efforts. But when I take a view of the Civil policy of the several states in the union I almost dispare of being able to make any vigorous exertions untill there is a power vested in some man or number of men obliging and binding on all the states in the Union, as it will be impossible to convince the several Legislatures of the Necessity untill the happy moment is past, of which I trust you will be satisfied when you are informed a principal³ state (to say nothing of the monthly Taxes) hath not yet paid their proportion of the Sixty Million.

I must take the liberty to desire you to use your influence that one of my Coleagues may Come forward as I am fully convinced the important business now before Congress will far exceed my abilities.

I have the honour to [be] your Excellencys most obedt and most huml Servant,
Ezek Cornell

N.B. There is not one word of News from Charlestown. Genl Clinton marched yesterday with the york Brigade for Albany to Stop the Career of Sr. Jno Johnston, Brant & Butler who are [in] Johnstown within 40 Miles of Albany at the head of a considerable force Burning all before them.

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Cornell was on his way to Congress when he made this visit to Washington's headquarters at Morristown.

² See also Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, May 28, 1780, note 3.

³ At this point Cornell inserted an asterisk, to which he keyed the word "Pensylvania" at the foot of the page.

James Duane to George Washington

My dear General

Philadelphia 30th May 1780

Congress are much affected at the Wants and distresses of the Army another Committee is appointed on your Excellency's late Representation to the Board of War, & a Letter from Commy Blane.¹ It is now found that the Supplies already demanded from the States are incompetent and in some Instances anticipated. It is to be lamented that we were not furnished with better Estimates at first; but we must endeavour to correct the Error; and to face every difficulty with firmness: and to remedy it as speedily & effectually as possible.

We have no Authentic Intelligence from Charles Town. Reports thro' Mr Lawrence (the late President) are to this Effect that our Horse under Cols. White & Washington (who escaped by plunging thro' a dangerous passage) have again sustained a considerable Loss: a random Conjecture makes it twenty Men & An equal number of Horses, that Fort Moultrie which had before been evacuated to 50 Men, surrendered on a formidable Appearance of 1500 of the Enemy and is in their possession: that there have been two Attacks on our Lines and the Enemy in both repulsed with great Loss. Those Reports appear to me to be slightly founded: Thus much is however certain that on the 16^t of this Month there was no decisive Event which had reached Wilmington; & that we have reason to expect that a vigorous and obstinate Defence is resolv'd on. In the mean time the severe Season of that Climate swiftly approaches when the Enemy will no longer be able to operate; and when we may expect the Arrival of the Fleet and Troops of our Ally! I have seized a Moment in Congress to give you this imperfect Intelligence; and beg you will pardon my Inexactness; assuring you that with the greatest Respect and Attachment, I have the honour to be, Dear Sir—your Excellency's most Affectionate obedient & very huml Servant, Jas. Duane

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Duane, William Ellery, and Oliver Ellsworth had been appointed a committee to consider a May 27 letter from Washington to the Board of War "respecting the distress of the Army for want of provisions," which had been forwarded to Congress by the board on May 29. See *JCC*, 17:471; *PCC*, item 148, 1:95-98; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:427-28.

The work of the committee was apparently eclipsed almost immediately, however, when a longer letter from Washington of May 27 to Congress was referred on May 31 to a second committee, composed of Duane, Ellsworth, and John Armstrong, which arranged at once to meet with Pennsylvania officials to respond to the needs of Washington's troops. See Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 31, 1780. Little is known about the activities of the former committee, but according to Secretary Thomson's endorsement on the Board of War's letter of May 29, it was "discharged" on June 14, probably in recognition that its functions had been absorbed by the latter.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia May 30. 1780

I do my self the honor of enclosing to your Excellency the latest intelligence we have from the Southward.

We have only yet the british Account of the late engagement in the West Indies between their & french fleets, which your Excellency will doubtless have seen before this comes to hand.

I have the honor to be, with the highest Respects, your Excellencys most obed. huml Servt,

Oliver Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

Oliver Ellsworth to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Dr Sr,

Philada. May 30. 1780

I recd your letter of the 14th with its enclosures, yesterday.

The report of the Committee on a mode of settling the outstanding Accts. mentioned in a late letter of mine to you,¹ the pressing business before Congress has yet prevented coming under consideration. It will be my duty to pay further attention to this Subject & to endeavour that there be as few obstacles as possible to a speedy close of the publick accts. I am very sorry your difficulties should be increased by any irregular application of the monies granted by Connecticut for Continental Use; & hope before the session was over that you so far got the better of your modesty as to propose any plan for reforming Errors & promoting the publick service that your judgement approved of. It is well if you did not also get the better of your patience.

I thank you for your congratulation on my having a seat appointed with the Fathers; & will own to you that I feel some pleasure in finding my services have not been unacceptable to the publick, but not that I have been ambitious to obtain that mark of their approbation which they have been pleased to confer;² & which it becomes me also to remember, they can, without assigning any reason, at pleasure take away. You justly remark, that I am not in a very fair way to promote my Interest. This I have felt to be the case for a long time, & should perhaps, lay it more to heart, if I did not see a thousand others suffering loss & shipwreck in the present storm as well as my self. It will however be some consolation to me to see you making land, & establishing yourself well in Terra-firma.

Your Accts. from a Captain lately arived at Warren, I have reason to doubt the truth of; but hope it will soon appear by the arival of a french force on some part of this Coast that his report was not wholly without foundation.

We have some intelligence this Morning from the Southward, which I have enclosed to Mr. Lyman³ but have not time to transcribe.

I am Sir, with much Esteem & Respect, your obedt. Hl. Sert,

O Ellsworth

RC (CtHWA: James Wadsworth Papers).

¹ Ellsworth may be referring to his letter to Wadsworth of April 15 printed above, from which only an extract has been located. The difficulties Congress was experiencing in settling outstanding accounts were not confined merely to those of former commissary general Wadsworth, however, and as a result Congress resolved on June 12 to create "two extra chambers of accounts" to facilitate their settlement, for which see Ellsworth to Wadsworth, June 13, 1780, note 1.

² Ellsworth also discussed his April election to the Governor's Council in a letter of this date to his wife, Abigail.

³ "I observe from Mr. Lymans letter that they have allotted me a seat with the Fathers.

This I have not been ambitious to obtain, nor do I expect any great satisfaction from it. It will rather increase my duties than my enjoyments or estate & perhaps produce towards me in some instances envy rather than good will. The times are at present too tempestuous for any wiseman to court a publick employment. They are much the happiest, in my judgement who have only their own private affairs & families to attend to." Ellsworth Papers, CtHi.

³ Not found.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia May 30th. 1780.

I have the honor of enclosing a number of acts of the state of New Jersey, & you'll perceive they are desirous of the like in return.¹

We have no authentick intelligence from Charlestown since I had the honr. of addressing you last, but by the best accots. I can collect the enemy are in possession of Fort Moultrie after a third attempt by storm & that they had endeavoured to take the Town by assault but were repulsed with loss; As the accts are *very* incorrect, I don't yet give over the hope of saving Charlestown.

The state of N. York are desirous that Congress shou'd come into farther resolutions, respecting the people stiling themselves the state of Vermont;² I must fear, that very disagreeable consequences will take place before this *unhappy* dispute is settled: But I shall continue to spare no pains to prevent, what I apprehend we are in great danger of, a war with that people.

The Act of the honble assembly for carrying into effect the resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March last, came here *in the newspapers* about ten days since, but neither Congress nor the Delegates from Masssts. have officially received it, yet, as I had one that came to hand yesterday (inclosed in a letter from the secretary) we tho't proper to lay it before Congress, & it appeared to be satisfactory, & was referred to the board of treasury.³

I have the honor to be, sir, with the highest respect, your most obedt. servant,
S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ Holten probably enclosed a copy of the published acts of the "26 February-March 1780" session of the New Jersey Assembly, for which see Evans, *Am. Bibliography*, no. 16,884.

² See New York Delegates to George Clinton, May 21, 1780, note 4.

³ See *JCC*, 17:471.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

May 30th. 1780

I cannot without losing the Post Opportunity do anymore than

inclose the Gazette and tell you to be cautious about believing the *very good* Reports from the Southward which will travel on from hence to you. I do not despair about the Safety of the *Garison* at Charlestown but there is nothing at present to boast of.

Your affectionate humble Servant,

J L

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir

May 30th. 1780

You will, e'er this reaches you, have had many Reports of grand Doings in our favor at Charlestown, but nothing absolute is here known except that Fort Moultrie is in the Hands of the Enemy. We do not venture to assert that there has been a second assault upon the Lines. Col. White & Col. Washington have escaped after being "surprised"¹ by the Enemy. They swam their Horses over Santee River the deepest & most rapid thereabout.

I pity poor Lincoln, but really I do not yet give up Charlestown.

We must reserve for more laughable Times several Matters which have turned up *near Home*. Broadhunt is returned, and is going to live at Baltimore.

Tr——n² will not see a Body on the opposite side of a narrow Street—But, I cease. I am running into Tête a Tête Subjects.

I have pd. Shield. But I have got not a line from Mr. H——³ nor one Half Joe from Boston.

Yrs affectionately

J L

RC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary Documents).

¹ At this point Lovell inserted a caret, to which he keyed the following comment in the margin: "The Letter writer should have said *overtaken* as they were returning with Prisoners and had actually embarked them."

² Lovell's meaning is unclear.

³ That is, John Hancock.

New York Delegates to Marinus Willett

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 30th May 1780

We received your favour respecting the Reduction of the 5th New York Regiment attended by a Memorial from the officers of that Corpse.¹ It will be sufficient to assure you that it had the full Effect you wish; as Congress convinced of the hardship of dismissing meritorious officers at the Instant of opening a Campaign which promises to be active, have unanimously resolved that it is not expedient to

reduce any of the Line.² Give us leave to request you to communicate this agreeable Intelligence to the Gentlemen interested in it, and to assure them of our best wishes for their Happiness.

With regard to your own Appointment to the Command of the Corps, be pleased to be referred to an Act of Congress passed on the 16th September 1776,³ by which it is declared that the Appointment of all Officers and filling up Vacancies, except general Officers, be left to the Governments of the several States. Congress consequently have no Authority to interfere. The Legislature of New York will we are perswaded take great pleasure in this opportunity of doing Justice at An officer of your distinguished Merit. If any Intervention of our own could be proper or Serviceable you may freely command it, for we are with great Regard, Dear Sir, your most Obedient, huml Servants,

Jas. Duane

Jno. Morin Scott

RC (NH: Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Willett). Written by Duane, and signed by Duane and Scott.

¹ Lt. Col. Marinus Willett had written at least two letters to the New York delegates protesting the "reduction" of the "fifth New York Regiment." In his second letter of May 24, 1780, Willett entered a "caveat against the reduction" of that regiment and repeated his claim to the command of it—"This I am anxious to have compleated as soon as possible because it is my right." Miscellaneous Manuscripts: Willett, NH.

² Congress took this action this day. See Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, May 31, 1780.

³ JCC, 5:763. Willett was appointed commander of the 5th New York Regiment on July 1, 1780. Heitman, *Historical Register*, p. 436.

Philip Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston

My Dear Sir

Morris town May 30th 1780

In my last¹ covering the letter from Governor Clinton I apologized for not having answered your favor of the 21st since which I have had the pleasure of yours of the 26th Inst. which was delivered me last evening.

When assurances had been given by Congress to France of an Effectual Cooperation with any force she might send, when not a single Adequate Step had been taken to bring the promised number of troops into the field, or to Supply them properly, when Congress was Informed that the armament from france was Actually ordered hither when they had every reason to believe It would arrive here by the last of June, It seems unaccountable that they should not have taken bold and decisive measures to have preserved the honor and promoted the Interests of this Country. What have they done? They have appointed a Committee² with powers not to draw forth the resources but merely to apply to the States for those resources, And

yet Members of Congress have held up to the Minister of France, to the Marquis de la Fayette, and are propagating thro out the Country, that their Committee have the most ample powers to enable to Supply every want of the Army and to put Into a Condition to act with vigor and Efficacy, surely this is Injurious and putting the Committee into a very disagreeable predicament. I foresee the Consequences. The supplies will be Inadequate, the Country will be uneasy, fault will be found, and the Committee will be made the Scape-goat and loaded with Calumny. Indeed I am an unfortunate Mortal. I had retired from public life sore with the wounds I had received In It. I have been drawn Into again, to experience a repeton of distress and heart corroding cares. I do not however Intend to despair. I will do all I can, I will exert every faculty, I will do my duty, and doing so I shall at least experience the Comfort of an approving conscience.

You have appointed a Committee to Confer with the Minister on the subject of Supplies for the French Troops.³ Mr. Corny has shewn me his Instructions, and what passed between him and Gen. Greene on the Subject, he has probably advised you of the Conversation he, the Marquis and I had in Consequence. I think It would be for the honor of these States as well as for their Interest that no Public officer of ours should Interfere in any purchases—that the most Capable man that can be found should be recommended to the Minister—that this person should direct the whole Business of purchases, and of transportation, and In General whatever may be necessary for the Accomadation of the troops of our ally. Let this person be a man who has a Character to preserve, and of such rank in life as to Intitle him to the respect and the Confidence of the French Commanders. If the Business is to be done by the deputies In the Staff departments of our Army they will be guilty of pettinesses and little chicane that will reflect dishonour [*on*] us. The troops will be Ill supplied, The Commanders Chagrined and disgusted, and unfavorable Impressions will take place; I am not Singular in these opinions.

The Enemy at New York are from good Accounts about 8000 regular troops, 4500 Inrolled Militia and refugees, with Sir Harry Clinton about 8000, In Canada as far up the St. Lawrence as Oswegatchie about three thousand, this Includes the Garrison at St Johns and the Smaller posts on Lake Champlain.

Sir Harry Clinton is advised of the Intended Reinforcement from France. He will probably, as soon as Charles town is reduced, which Indeed I take for granted It already is, return to New York leaving the least Garrison possible say 2500 Men, and that he has lost by death, sickness, &c 1000 more. Since the British at N York will amount to 17000, against a force so Capital and well Covered with fortifications, Every attempt will be fruitless unless we can operate against them with at least double the number. Can we draw that Into field, can we supply them If we should. I fear, I fear we can do

neither the one or the other. We cannot Attempt the recovery of Charles town; the french force would be Inadequate; and we cannot make a detachment because we have no salted meat and the Live Stock cannot be sent, And It would be too Imprudent to depend upon the precarious supply of the Country. Where then can we point our Operations, to Penobscot, that does not seem an Object of Sufficient Importance, Niagara we cannot approach In this Campaign unprepared as we are, and the Enemy have no other posts, *within the united States*, and beyond them It seems by the resolutions of the 20th May and those of January, that the General cannot point any operations. Is it wise thus to limit him?⁴ If we cannot reduce the first Object N York, should we not Attempt the Second? I think we should, the reduction of Canada is Important. It secures the whole chain of fronteer down to Virginia, enables you to Act with more vigour on the sea board, The temper of the Canadians affords you an Almost Certain prospect of Success—five thousand men In addition to the french force would be amply Sufficient, and these, If the States have the Exertion to Compleat their battalions as the General & Committee have proposed they shoud, could be spared from an army here to act only on the defensive. Why then If we should discover the Impossibility of operating with any probable prospect of success against N York, should we not adopt the only Alternative which Seems left, If those who think like me on the Subject mean to Attempt an extension of the Generals power? It might be well to point In their arguments at Halifax as an object. This might Induce the Eastern members to Join in extending the powers of the Generals.

Measures have been adopted to turn the Enemies attention to Canada but they will not succeed for they will obtain the knowledge that our operations are to be confined to these states. The secret cannot be kept, large popular bodies are equally Incapable of Secrecy as of dispatch.

Colo Sheburne⁵ whose regiment is reduced wishes to go to Hyspaniola as Consul or Mercantile agent. Wether such an Officer is to be appointed or not, It may be well to mention It to General Cornel, he wishes It, and I have promised to mention the Matter. A little Management will attach him to you.

Make my Compliments In your own terms to the female Circle of our acquaintance, Alas! I am become a man Emmerzed In business—business, that tax on pleasure, that bane to the system of the laughing philosopher.

Adieu my Dear Sir, I am most Sincerely Your affect Friend & Humble Servant,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (NH: Robert R. Livingston Papers).

¹ Not found.

² That is, the Committee at Headquarters.

the conference. *JCC*, 17:473; *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:370; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:428-32. For the committee's report on the results of this meeting, see *JCC*, 17:479-80.

The "thanks of Congress" was communicated to Pennsylvania for its "ready Attention" to Washington's appeal by Pres. Samuel Huntington in brief letters of June 3 to Pres. Joseph Reed and to John Bayard, speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly. PCC, item 15, fols. 14-15.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia May 31. 1780

I am honoured with your Letter of the 28th Instant with the Dispatches to which it refers, and have laid them before Congress this Day. The several Letters to the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia were immediately forwarded by Express.

Enclosed you will receive an Act of Congress of the 30th Instant, by which you will be informed, they have determined that it is not expedient at present to make any partial Reduction in the Army.

Your report for reducing the New York Battallions had been referred to a Committee, and before they had reported, a Petition from a Number of the Officers in the Corps proposed to be reduced came into Congress, earnestly intreating they might not be constrained to leave the Service at this Season, just as the Campaign was opening &c, Congress upon considering the Subject came into the Resolution a Copy of which is enclosed.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, gentlemen, your most obedt & hbble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:472; and Committee at Headquarters to Huntington, May 16, 1780, enclosure "No. 3." The May 25 memorial from ten officers of the 5th New York Regiment that led Congress to adopt this May 30 resolve discharging the committee mentioned here by Huntington, is in PCC, item 41, 7:275-77. Congress' declaration against the expediency of making any "reduction in the army of the United States" finally put an end to Robert R. Livingston's troublesome motion of January 8 to reduce the Continental Army to sixty regiments, a proposal that also lay at the heart of the decision to send a committee to headquarters. See Committee of Congress to Washington, January 11; and Congress' Instructions to the Committee at Headquarters, April 6-13, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia May 31. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 30th Instant herewith enclosed your

Excellency will observe, they deem it not expedient at present to make any partial Reduction in the Army of the United States.

This Resolution passed in Consequence of a report from the Committee at Head Quarters for reducing some of the New York Battallions, and a Petition from a Number of the Officers in those Battallions, earnestly intreating they might not be constrained to leave the Service now at the Opening of the Campaign.¹

Your Excellencys Despatches of the 27th Instant have been received and laid before Congress. It is painful to reflect upon the Distresses and Difficulties therein mentioned. I presume Congress will not be wanting on their part to do every thing within the Compass of their Power to remove them.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's
 humble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See the preceding entry.

² Washington's May 27 letter pleading the distress of the army "for want of meat," and reporting the recent mutiny of two Connecticut regiments because of the hardships they had had to endure, is in PCC, item 152, 8:579-85; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:428-32. See also James Duane to Washington, May 30, 1780, note; and Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, this date.

Committee at Headquarters to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,
 In Committee of Congress.
 Morris town June 1st. 1780.

The commander in chief has laid before us letters from General Howe commanding at West point,¹ and from the commissaries at that post and those depending; from those we have the mortification to find that there is not a days provision in the garrison of any kind, that that which had been lodged in the redoubts, and the most positive orders given to preserve it for the subsistence of the garrison in case of an attack from the Enemy, has thro' necessity been also expended.² It is exceedingly improbable that the Enemy should be ignorant that the garrison now subsists from hand to mouth, and as they have the highest inducement to attempt a reduction of that post, we ought to suppose they will; (Indeed private intelligence has been received that the[y] contemplate it) as soon as the troops from Carolina arrive, and they are hourly expected. Should they gain it, the consequences would be distressing in the highest degree; permit us to state one. The French force is expected to arrive in an Eastern port, to co-operate with them against New-York or any other point ours must of necessity cross Hudsons river, hence if the Enemy is in

possession of the fortresses in the highlands as the quantity of flour east of Hudson's river is so amazingly inadequate to the supply of such an Army as we ought to bring into the field, we should have to convey it, from the Delawar by the circuitous route of Sussex County in this State, thro' Orange and part of Ulster in that of New York, thence by a long land transportation to the point of operations, but all the carriage that could be collected, would be incompetent to the business. And if even a sufficient number could be obtained, yet the forage on the rout would be exhausted before the Army could operate offensively. Thus every prospect of making an impression on the Enemy in this campaign, must vanish—the succour of our ally prove rather a misfortune than an advantage—the disaffected encouraged, and a spring given to their hopes, if even the result should not be more fatal. It therefore becomes indispensibly our duty not to lose a moment in furnishing that post so amply as that the garrison may maintain itself, until this Army can march to its relief. Your exertions, Sir, and those of the State over which you preside, we are no strangers to, and we note with confidence, that they will be evinced on this occasion, both in a supply of salted and fresh meat, the former cannot be dispensed with in a seige, as cattle cannot be maintained in the redoubts which cover the capital fortress, nor be thrown in if the Enemy should invest them.

We have to intreat your Excellency to keep the substance of this letter, as secret as possible, least the Enemy should take an advantage before the supplies can be thrown in.

We have the honor to be, With perfect Esteem and respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient Hble servts. Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody³

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Peabody and Schuyler.

¹ Over a dozen letters from Gen. Robert Howe written in April and May 1780 are in the Washington Papers, DLC.

² For which see Washington's June 1 letter to Howe, Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:463-64.

³ The copy of this letter in the committee's letterbook, which was created at a later date by secretary Abraham Brasher, also includes the name of John Mathews as a signer of this letter. Brasher probably used Schuyler's unsigned draft of the letter for the text of his letterbook copy and apparently assumed that Mathews had signed the RC. See PCC, item 11, fols. 198-99; and item 39, 3:81-84.

This day the committee officially appointed Brasher as its secretary and Benjamin Brown as his assistant, although it is clear that Brasher had been serving as committee secretary for more than a week. See PCC, item 11, fol. 293. On May 30th, for example, Brasher had responded on behalf of the committee to a request from Joseph Howell, Jr. & Co. for information concerning the terms under which hides and shoes would be delivered to the army, for which see PCC, item 78, 12:33-34; and item 11, fol. 260.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia June the 1^t. 1780.

In my last I had the honour to acquaint you that I Recd. your Feavour of the 28th of April the 18th of May and laid it before Congress, and that it wase by them Referd. the board of war—who this day made there Report, in Consequence of which two hunderd & fifty men were Voted with a Proportionable number officers—which Resolution I herewith Inclose, hope it will be agreeable.¹

We have accounts this day by the Way of New York that Charlstown in South Carolina have Surrendered to our enemys—however there is not much Creadit given to it in Congress alltho we have Some Reason to fear it. We have many Difficultyes to incounter with for want of money or Creadet in order to Supply the army with Provision who are offen in want of meat, which is Productive of Very Disagreeable Consequences.

As Soone as the new money is Prepaired I will Due what lyes in my Power to forward it. I am informed it will [*be*] Ready to be Delivered in about a month.

My Colleague² is on a Committe at headquarters for near a month Past, whather he will Returne to Congress before he goes home is unsertain.

I am Sr. with grate Respect your most Obedent Humle Sert.

Nathl Folsom

RC (MHi: Weare Papers).

¹ For Congress' resolution providing troops for the defense of New Hampshire's frontier, see *JCC*, 17:478-79; and Folsom to Weare, May 18, 1780, note 1.

² That is, Nathaniel Peabody.

Committee at Headquarters to Certain States

Sir, In Committee of Congress,
Morris Town, 2d June, 1780.

In a letter of the 31st Ultimo, from the Commander in Chief,¹ which we had the honor to receive on the same day, his Excellency observes, "That in the expected co-operation with the force of our ally, against that of the common enemy, it is of great moment that we should proceed with circumspection, and on the surest ground. Before we can determine what ought to be undertaken, we should be able to appreciate the means we shall have it in our power to employ, on some precise scale.

"To begin an enterprize against any point in possession of the

enemy, on a general presumption of sufficient resources in the country, and proportionable exertions in the respective Governments to bring them forth, would hardly be justified by success—could never be defended in case of misfortune, to say nothing of the fatal consequences that might ensue. It appears to me necessary to ascertain the number of men, and the quantity of supplies which the states are capable of furnishing in a *given time*, and to *obtain assurances* from them, founded on experience of their continuing supplies in the same proportion. I esteem the plan adopted by the Committee in their Circular letter, an extremely good preparatory one: but I think it of *indispensible importance*, in the next place, to come to something fixed and determinate. I therefore take the liberty to submit to the Committee, the necessity and propriety of calling immediately upon the states for *specific aids of men, provisions, forage*, and the means of transportation.”

His Excellency next states the enemies number, and position—mentions the points against which the combined Arms will probably be directed, and furnishes us with an estimate of the force which America ought to draw into the field, with others, exhibiting a state of the provisions, horses, carriages, and a variety of other articles indispensibly necessary to give vigor and a probable prospect of success to our operations. Duty and inclination equally impelled us to a conference with the General, and to the most serious consideration of the subject. The result was a determination specifically to apportion to, and request from the states referred to in the resolutions of Congress of the 19th Ultimo to furnish the requisite supplies by the first day of July.² In estimating these, we have paid all possible regard to the probable resources of each, and to their relative position to those scenes of operation, which are at present in contemplation. We shall accordingly annex the kind, and quantum of supplies which are monthly expected from your state; and we have to intreat that you will fully comply with the requisitions, we have the honor to make, and that they will be kept up, in the same proportion until the last of November, if necessity should induce us to continue the application to that period, even although any of the articles now called for, should exceed the quota assigned you by the Act of Congress of the 25th of February, last: And you will please, Sir, to signify to us, without delay, the determination of your state on this important subject.

Here it becomes our duty to advise you, as upon examination you will perceive, that we have stated your quota per month, in some articles, beyond what it would have been, could we have strictly adhered to the proportion on which the allotments made by the act of the 25th February last were adjusted; but this was found impracticable, because of the exhausted condition of some of the states, in which the Army, and its principal detachments have wintered. But

as these, in the course of the Campaign, will be enabled to afford more than they can at present, your quota as now stated, will of course diminish. The requisition, Sir, is large, but it is barely competent—It is the least adequate to the intended operations, as it is calculated on the most limited expenditures, without the smallest allowance for accidental losses, or extra-consumption.

Having given the states a fixed point, to regulate themselves by, their measures will be equal to it, and their exertions competent to the magnitude of the object. In matters of such high import, it appeared to the General, and to us, essential that there should be a proper understanding on all hands. That the states should know the wants of the Army, and what is expected for it; That the General and the Committee should be clearly and explicitly advised of their abilities, both individually, and collectively; and to have determined with precision, what may be expected. We do not fear to discourage by the largeness of the demand, as we conceive it impossible they should not bear with the knowledge of the wants of their Army, and because knowing them, we are persuaded, their wisdom and patriotism, will impel them to every exertion, fully to afford the supplies. (Thus far Circular)

1st. To New-Hampshire. The supplies apportioned to your state, are as follows, 166,835, pounds of beef per month, and 25 Hogsheads of Rum per month, to be transported, and delivered where the commissary general shall direct; also 150 horses to be attached to the Army, and to be delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or commissary general may direct. The horses are an additional article to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra-supplies cannot be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

2d. Massachusetts-Bay. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your state, are 666,035, pounds of beef per month, and 225 Hogsheads of Rum per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the Commissary general shall direct, also 4571, Bushels of grain for forage, per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, and 1020 draft horses to be attached to the Army, and to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master general may direct. The forage, and horses, are additional articles to those stated in the Act of Congress of the 25th February last; but

the requisition on your state, as on others, could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

3d. Rhode-Island. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your state, are 71,675, pounds of beef per month, and 30 Hogsheads of Rum per month to be transported to, and delivered where the Commissary general shall direct, also 2285 bushels of grain for forage, per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, and 200 draft horses to be attached to the Army, to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones, monthly, *within* the month succeeding as the quarter master or Commissary General may direct. The forage and horses are additional articles to those stated in the Act of Congress of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra supplies, cannot be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

4. Connecticut. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your state, are 1500 barrels flour per month, 666,035 pounds of beef per month, 100 Hogsheads of Rum per month, and 500 Bushels of Salt per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the commissary general shall direct, 30,000 pounds of Bacon, in three equal parcels monthly to the last of September, transported and delivered as aforesaid—9142 bushels of grain for forage per month—100 Ox carts, and 400 Oxen with the requisite number of yokes, bows, chains, cleavesses and pins, also 1,000 draft horses. The Carts, Oxen, and horses to be attached to the Army, all those to be delivered, where the quarter master general shall direct, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or commissary General may direct. The flour, bacon, Carts, Oxen, horses, and grain, are additional articles to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra supplies, could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

5. New-York. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your State, are 71,675, pounds of beef per month, 140 barrels of flour per month, and 2285 bushels of grain for forage, per month, the two former to be transported to, and delivered at Albany, and the latter as the quarter master general shall direct, also, 600 draft horses to be attached to the Army, and to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master, or Commissary general may direct. The horses are an additional article

to those stated in the Act of Congress of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra-supplies, cannot be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any must be charged in account with the United States. Your quota of flour, and beef, as now apportioned is short of what it should be, in consideration of the exhausted condition of the State, when it shall be in a condition to afford more ample supplies, additional requisitions will be made.

6. New-Jersey. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your state, are 500 barrels flour per month, 36,760 pounds of beef per month, and 500 bushels of salt per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the commissary general shall direct—6857 bushels of grain for forage per month, to be transported to, and delivered as the quarter master general shall direct, 51 Waggon and harness compleat, and with four horses to each, and 696 draft horses, the two last mentioned articles to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or Commissary general may direct. The forage may be, and the horses are additional articles, to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra-supplies could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

7. Pennsylvania. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your State, are 5000 barrels of flour per month, 1000 barrels of which to be delivered at Easton, 1000 barrels at Corryels ferry, and the remainder at Trenton; 166,835 pounds of beef or pork per month, to be delivered in Philadelphia, with 30,000 pounds of bacon in three equal parcels monthly to the last of September—225 Hogsheads of Rum per month, delivered at the Army—9142 bushels of grain for forage per month—1500 of which to be delivered at Easton—1500 at Corryels ferry, and the remainder at Trenton, 250 Waggon with harness compleat, and with four horses to each—and 1500 horses without harness, all those to be attached to the Army, and to be delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, and on or before the first day of July next, The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or commissary general may direct. The beef, bacon, horses, and waggon are additional articles to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25th of February last, but the requisition on your state, as on others, for extra-supplies could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the United States.

8. Delaware. The supplies apportioned to your state are as follows,

500 barrels of flour per month, 71,675 pounds of beef per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the commissary General shall direct, 5,000 pounds of bacon, in three equal parcels, monthly to the last of September, transported and delivered as aforesaid, 6,857 bushels of grain to be transported and delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, 50 waggons with harness complete, and with four horses to each; also three hundred draft horses, The waggons and horses to be attached to the Army, to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies, to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or commissary general may direct. The bacon, waggons, and horses, are additional articles to those stated in the act of Congress of the 25th of February last, but the requisition on your State, as on others, could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the united States.

9. Maryland. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your State, are, 2,500 barrels flour per month, 143,045 pounds of beef per month, to be transported to, and delivered where the commissary general shall direct, 30,000 pounds of bacon, in three equal parcels monthly, to the last of September, transported and delivered as aforesaid, 11,428 bushels of grain for forage, per month, to be transported to and delivered where the quarter master general shall direct, 50 waggons with harness complete, and with four horses to each, also 400 draft horses. The waggons and horses to be attached to the Army, and to be delivered as last aforesaid, and on or before the first day of July next. The first monthly quota of supplies, to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master, or commissary general may direct. The bacon, waggons, and horses, are additional articles to those stated in the act of Congress, of the 25th February last, but the requisition on your State, as on others, for extra supplies, could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the united States.

10. Virginia. The supplies allotted to be furnished by your state, are, 60,000 pounds of bacon, in three equal parcels, monthly, to the last of September, and 60 Hhds of Rum per month, to be transported and delivered where the commissary general shall direct; also 29,714 bushels of grain for forage, per month, to be transported to and delivered as the quarter master general shall direct. The first monthly quota of supplies to be delivered by the first day of July next, and the subsequent ones monthly, *within* the months succeeding, as the quarter master or commissary general may direct. The bacon is an additional Article to those stated in the Act of Congress of the 25th

of February last, but the requisition on your State, as on others, for extra-supplies, could not be dispensed with, and the amount thereof, together with the transportation of any, must be charged in account with the united States. We have not apportioned to your State any flour, beef, salt, or hay, as we were apprehensive that calls might be made on you from the Southward, should that not be the case, you will forward as much beef, and flour, monthly, as will amount to about a fifteenth part of the quota assigned you of those articles by the act of Congress of the 25th of February last.

What follows, is circular.

We believe it would be advantageous to the States in general, that the carts, oxen, and horses, should be procured by hire, in preference to purchase, as the drivers who will then accompany them will be more careful of the cattle; should your State adopt that mode, we recommend that the contracts may be made, payable in specie, or in paper money equivalent, and that the value of the carts, waggons, oxen, and horses, should be appraised on oath, and a return of the appraisement be made to the quarter master general.

As the object against which the military operations will be directed cannot be positively ascertained, we have it not in power to call on you for a determinate quantum of transportation, but believe it will be considerable.

The continental troops already engaged, and with the Army, together with the addition requested by the generals letter of the 25 ultimo, to complete the batalions to 504 rank and file, will still, in his opinion, and our own, be inadequate to insure success, in the intended operations. In our circular letter of the 25th ultimo, we intreated your legislature to adopt measures for drawing forth your militia, on the shortest notice. We have now to request that such arrangements may be made, as that your quota of militia, which, with the concurrence of the commander in chief, we state at —— (The number of militia requested from the several states, is contained in the first column of the estimate of supplies, see page 63)³ rank and file shall rendezvous at the Army, or at such posts and places, as the General shall direct, by the fifteenth day of July next, at furthest, and to continue in service for the term of three months, computing from the day of their arrival at such rendezvous, as aforesaid.

Such of the supplies, herein required, as made part of the quota assigned to your State, by the act of Congress of the 25th of February last, and which it is requested you will transport to, and deliver where the quarter master general or commissary general shall direct, will be receipted for by the Continental officers appointed for that purpose, before either they, or your agents, convey or transport the same beyond the limits of your State. If however such continental officer should not be present, you will give directions, that the weight, or quantity of the articles may be estimated, and an account, or

invoice, transmitted with each parcel. We have to observe, that in the beef requested, hides and tallow are not included, allowance must therefore be made for these, when cattle are sent to the Army. If drivers are sent with the draft horses, and cattle, requested of your State, we wish to have one for every four horses, or oxen.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servts.

Philip Schuyler,

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

P.S. We do most earnestly entreat, that the requisition now made on your State, for the quota of Militia may not be suffered on any consideration whatever, to retard the completion of the Continental batalions, as recommended in our second circular letter of the 25th ultimo; The necessity of that measure becoming daily more striking and important.⁴

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Directed to the 10 northernmost states, listed in note 3.

¹ For the commander-in-chief's letter, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:455-59. Washington's draft of this letter, endorsed "State of Matters as laid before the Comee. of conference at Morris Town, May 1780," is in the Washington Papers, DLC. For the differences between that text and the letter sent, see *ibid.*, p. 459n.99. For the June 2 circular letter that Washington sent to the states to reinforce this letter from the committee, see *ibid.*, pp. 468-70.

² See Samuel Huntington to Certain States, May 19, 1780.

³ The "number of militia" in the tabulated statement of men and supplies requested—which accompanied the circular letter and is found at pp. 63-64 of the committee's letterbook, PCC, item 11—were as follows: New Hampshire, 945; Massachusetts, 4,725; Rhode Island, 630; Connecticut, 2,250; New York, 1,575; New Jersey, 945; Pennsylvania, 3,465; Delaware, 315; Maryland, 2,205; and Virginia, 4,725.

⁴ Copies of this letter were not actually ready for distribution until June 5, at which time it appears that those to Pennsylvania and Virginia were sent to President Huntington to be forwarded and those for the New England states to Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut. For the former, see the Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, June 5, note 4. The committee's June 5 letter to Trumbull enclosing the latter is in the Trumbull Papers, Ct. The remaining letters—to New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland—were probably sent directly by the committee from Morristown at the same time.

John Fell to Robert Morris

My Worthy friend

Philada. June 2d. 1780

I am sure your goodness of heart will readily excuse a seeming neglect in an Old friend, especially when I tell you I have been obliged to keep my Room a week with another attack of a fever [. . .] Yesterday was a week while in Congress and oblidgd to goe home;

but next day feeling better I went again and on a Persumption that I should continue well, Mr Houston unluckily took a Jaunt in the Country and next day I was very Ill, but thank God I seem now quite Recoverd except a sore face which suppose was occasiond by the fevor, and Prevents my going out yet. I hope your Eyes are got well. Yesterday I had a Letter from Peter,¹ he tells me Mrs. Fell has also got sore Eyes, which she never had before in her Life.

However if she has sore Eyes and a sore [Throat] it is not to be wonder'd at, to be in such a [. . .] and miserable situation at Our time of Life. After the late unfortunate affair at Paramus I wrote her and begged her for Gods, as well as for her own, mine and Our Sons to quit Petersfield and come here immediately, but she has more Prudence and forethought then I have, she has desired to know if I can maintain her, to which I must answer in the negative, as I cannot by my allowance maintain my Self. Then what is to become of the Old Negroe, the Horses, Cattle and furniture [. . .] questions Put so home that I cannot get over them.

My Daughter Colden² is now with her Mamma and she writes me, she will take a Jaunt in the Highlands If I will meet her there, which I intend to doe as I think it will be a means of Restoreing my lost health in this dead hole. I expect Peter here soon and if I can get him settled here, I shall goe soon after.

I find by Mr Clark my absence has been of no bad consequence as they have been the chief of the time on the Vermont Business. I am told there is good Accounts to day of the French Victory over the British In the West Indies. Rivingtons Pompious Acot. [of Captur]ing Charles town I do not beleive one word of. My situation is so truely distressing that am quite out of Spirits. If I have any inquiring friends in your Quarter Pray remember me kindly to them.

And believe me to be with great Esteem, Your Sinceare Friend,
John Fell

RC (NjR: Robert Morris Papers).

¹ That is, Fell's son, Peter.

² Elizabeth Fell, who had married the grandson of Cadwallader Colden, former lieutenant governor of New York.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 2 June 1780

I take the Liberty to enclose for the Use of the Legislature, The Act of the State of New-Hampshire on the Proceedings of Congress of 18th March last, relative to Finance. On former Occasions I have

transmitted that of Connecticut in Manuscript, and that of Massachusetts-bay in a Newspaper.¹ From the present, little Assistance can be derived in forming or amending a Bill, the Modes of Taxation in New-Hampshire, and indeed in all the Eastern States, being very dissimilar from ours. It is very effectual for their Purposes, but would be looked upon as loose and inadequate in New-Jersey.

I am sorry it was not in my Power to attend the Commands of Members of the Legislature in Trenton, as I could have wished, while in the State, the Beginning of this Week. I had but three Days being obliged to return Yesterday, and it was well I did, as Mr. Fell is unfortunately ill, so as not to be able to attend Congress. Though I have very few private Concerns to look after, I have been so much absent, and so inattentive to them, that I was obliged to give them a little Time.

As I came through Trenton I heard of a Supplement or Gazette extraordinary of Rivington's figuring upon the Capture of Charlestown. I did not see it, nor have I yet seen it, but verily believe it is a Puff, or perhaps a Part of a Scheme they have lately concerted and laboured with much Assiduity, to foment Discontents and Mutiny in the federal Army. I do not pretend to say no Disaster has happened to the Southward, but can scarcely think they know more of it than we, and if the Town had been taken on the 12th ult. it would have been over Land by this Time. Speculations are not of much Account, but if the Enemy were about to leave New-York, or had heard of the Raising of the Siege of Charlestown, they would play such Tricks.

I shall enquire further into the Circumstances when I attend Congress to-day, and if I can collect any Thing of Consequence, will take the Liberty to communicate it for the Information of the Legislature.

I have the Honour to be, with due Respect, Your Excellency's very obed. Servt.

William Ch. Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ See Houston to Livingston, May 12 and 22, 1780.

Joseph Jones to James Hunter

Dr. Sr.¹

Phila. 2d June 1780

I yesterday recd. a Letter from Jno. Dawson² informing me of his arrival at Boston the 16th ult. and of his delivering your and my Letters to Mr. Swan who very politely received him and promised him every necessary attention. The Letter being wrote the day after his getting to Boston no information could be given of the Expence but he says he will communicate it as soon as Mr. Swan and himself shall be able to make the estimate. No extraordinary advance at the

first will be necessary on the part of Mr. Swan as Jack writes me he had 500 dols. of his money left and his Horse and Saddle &c to dispose of. I am surprised no more Tobacco has come down as the persons owing it promised it should be down as soon as the Roads were in order. I have written to Mr. Jones about it. A Gazett extraordinary of Mr. Rivingtons was brot. here yesterday giving an acct. of the surrender of Chs. Town on the 12th ult. But from various circumstances the Truth of the intelligence is much questioned. A day or two will clear up our Doubt. Sr. Jno. Johnson with three Companies of Regulars and a party of Indians are laying waste pt. of the Frontier of New York, having burnt and destroyed many Houses and killed and taken many of the Inhabitants and it is said the Enemy are collecting in considerable Force at Montreal with design to distress our Frontier.³ It is not improbable the Indians united with some British Troops and Tories may be troublesome this Summer in resentment for Sulivans treatment the last year wch. served rather to provoke than destroy or ruin. The engagement between the Fleets in the W. Indies appears to be indecisive and it depends upon another struggle to determine the Superiority. I will so soon as it shall be in my power make the inquiry you desire abt. the Maryland Certificates but believe you may be sooner informed by application from Mr. Carrol than from me. It will I think be difficult to get any of them here. With Compts. to yr. Lady, I am,
D. Sr, yr. most obed. Servt. Jos. Jones

RC (ViU: Hunter-Garnett Papers).

¹ James Hunter (1721-84) managed the public stores at Fredericksburg and operated a nearby iron works that was vital to the war effort in Virginia. See Mason, *Papers* (Rutland), 1:lxii; and Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 4:329-30.

² John Dawson (1762-1814) of Spotsylvania Co., Virginia, a student at Harvard College. DAB.

³ General Washington's May 27 letter reporting these alarming developments had been read in Congress on May 31. See JCC, 17:473; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:428-32.

James Lovell to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia June 2d. 1780

I think it my Duty to forward to you for the Information of the Honorable Council Copies of some Papers in the Office of the Secretary of Congress necessary to explain a Resolve of that Assembly passed on the 30th of May in Respect to an Officer of the Line of the Troops of Massachusetts who thinks himself aggrieved.¹

Your most humble Servant,

James Lovell

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ The "aggrieved" officer was Col. John Bailey, the commander of the 4th Massachusetts Brigade. For his complaint that he had been repeatedly passed over for promotion, which led him to request permission to resign if he could not be appointed brigadier, see Samuel Huntington to Bailey, June 10, 1780, note.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir.

June 2d 1780

Though I presume you will not, you cannot *now* go with Mr. G——¹ yet I must renew my Hint to you that you would not go into any domestic confidentials in Regard to what used to be the midnight Subject of our Fam[ily].² You cannot think of *all* the Reasons I have for renewing this Caution. Yrs. affectionately, J L

RC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary Documents). Endorsed: "Rec'd June 5th answer'd the 6th, by Master James S. Lovel."

¹ That is, Elbridge Gerry, who was returning to Massachusetts via Washington's headquarters at Morristown.

² The "midnight Subject" has not been discovered.

James Madison to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir

Philadelphia June 2d 1780

I have written several private letters to you since my arrival here,¹ which as they contained matters that I should be sorry should fall into other hands, I could wish to know had been received. If your Excellency has written any acknowledgments of them, they have never reached me.

Mr. Griffin tells me he has seen several letters just recd. by Mr. Bingham from Martinique² which give information that three successive engagements have taken place between the Fleets in the W. Indies, the two first of which were indecisive but that the third was so far in favor of the French that the English had gone into port, and left the former entirely master of those Seas: that they were gone in consequence of it to invade Barbadoes, and that the general expectation was that both that Island and St Kitts would speedily be in their possession.

It appears from sundry accounts from the Frontiers of N. York and other N. States, that the Savages are making the most distressing incursions under the direction of British Agents, and that a considerable force is assembling at Montreal, for the purpose of wresting



James Madison

from us Fort Schuyler which covers the N. Western frontiers of N. York. It is probable the Enemy will be but too successful this campaign in exciting their vindictive spirit against us, throughout the whole frontier of the United States. The Expedition of Genl Sullivan agst. the six nations seems by its effects rather to have exasperated than to have terrified or disabled them. And the example of those nations will add great weight to the exhortations addressed to the more Southern tribes.

Rivington has published a positive and particular account of the surrender of Charlestown on the 12 Ult. said to be brought to N. York by the Iris which left Charleston five days after. There are notwithstanding some circumstances attending it which added to the notorious character for lying of the Author, leave some hope that it is fictitious. The true state of the matter will probably be known at Richmond before this reaches you.

We have yet heard nothing further of the Auxiliary Armament from France. However anxiously its arrival may be wished for it is much to be feared. We shall continue to be so unprepared to co-operate with them, as to disappoint their views, and to add to our distress & disgrace. Scarce a week, and sometimes scarce a day, but brings us a most lamentable picture from Head Quarters. The Army are a great part of their time on short allowance, at some times, without any at all, and constantly depending on the precarious fruits of momentary expedients. General Washington has found it of the utmost difficulty to repress the mutinous spirit engendered by hunger and want of pay: and all his endeavours could not prevent an actual eruption of it in two Connecticut Regts. who assembled on the parade with their arms and resolved to return home or satisfy their hunger by the force of the Bayonet. We have no permanent resource, and scarce even a momentary one left, but in the prompt & vigorous supplies of the States. The State of Pennsylvania has it in her power to give great relief in the present crisis, and a recent act of its Legislature shews, they are determined to make the most of it.³ I understand they have invested their Executive with a dictatorial Authority from which nothing but the *lives* of their Citizens are exempted. I hope the good resulting from it will be such as to compensate for the risk of the precedent. With great respect, I am
Yr. Excellency's Most Ob & humb Servt

James Madison Junr.

RC (DLC: Madison Papers). Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:37-38.

¹ Only the letters of March 27 and May 6 have been found.

² William Bingham, former Continental agent in Martinique, had just recently returned to his home in Philadelphia.

³ Madison is referring to the June 1 act of the Pennsylvania assembly empowering the executive to commandeer supplies for the Continental army, for which see *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:287-88.

New York Delegates to George Clinton

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia, 2d June, 1780.

The Want of a competent Representation in Congress to decide on the Business of the Vermonters still continues.¹ We wish however for some intermediate act to check their Career, and it is in the Expectation of such a Measure that Major Hunt is prevailed on to delay his Journey a few days longer.

We had the Honour of writing to your Excellency on the 21st Instant by the post; among other things we mentioned the necessity of our Legislature's providing some fund for the support of their Delegates, and of a speedy remittance to disincumber us from the debts we have already contracted for our Subsistence. Lest that Letter may have miscarried we beg leave to repeat that the Inconvenience of permitting members to draw money out of the publick treasury at their pleasure called for a Check; it was not less improper with respect to the Community than indelicate as it regarded the Applicant. It is true that we gave into the practice but it was not that it ever had our Approbation: general acquiescence only gave it Sanction. At present the publick Exigencies are such as to close the Treasury against the private Wants of even the members of Congress, and we must entreat your Excellency to recommend a suiteable Provision for us without Loss of time. They demand from us £270 Cont. money a week for a gentleman & Servant exclusive even of Table beer, every thing else is in proportion, and exchange 60 for one. We take it for granted that it is the Intention of the Legislature that our Expences should be defrayed and we wish for no more. If we should be asked for an Estimate it is our opinion that the Value of six dollars a day specie will be no more than sufficient. It is indeed a third more than the original Allowance to the delegates of our state: but it must be observed that every Article of Expence to which we are exposed is raised to double it's former price.

We enclose your Excellency a Resolution of Congress to establish the post you recommend;² and we hope that it is expressed in the manner you wish and that it will answer the Ends you propose. The general Measures pursued at Head Quarters to oppose the Irruptions of the Indians and British into our distressed state cannot but meet with approbation and produce salutary Effects: But horror and devastation will always mark the footsteps of those dastardly foes; and while no adequate Defence can be provided against the Assassin & Incendiary we must be exposed to feel with inexpressible Solitude and regret the reiterated Sufferings of our frontier Fellow Citizens.

We are still anxious for the Fate of South Carolina. Rivington by a handbill has made a present of it to Sir Henry Clinton: but the Tale is not credited.

We shall have the pleasure of writing again to your Excellency by Major Hunt, probably in a day or two. And remain with the highest respect, Sir, your Excellency's most Obedient humble Servants,

Jas. Duane.

Jno. Morin Scott.

P. S. Neither of Us have as yet received one Shilling from the Treasury. J. M. Scott has attended ever since the 18th Feby last.

J. Duane

RC (N: Clinton Papers). Written by Duane and signed by Duane and Scott. Tr (Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:777-79). RC damaged; missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ Despite this assertion, Congress did take explicit action on the Vermont controversy this day, censuring Vermont officials for claiming independent status and enjoining them "to forbear and abstain from all acts of authority . . . over the inhabitants of any town or district" claimed by one of the parties to the dispute. Congressional proceedings on the New Hampshire Grants claims were then postponed, but Congress pledged to resume its inquiry into the case "as soon as nine states, exclusive of those who are parties to the controversy, shall be represented." See *JCC*, 17:482-85. See also New York Delegates to Clinton, May 21, note 3 and June 5, note 1; and Samuel Huntington to Certain States, June 6, 1780.

² See Samuel Huntington to Clinton, June 3, 1780.

Philip Schuyler to Benedict Arnold

My dear Sir,

Morristown, June 2, 1780.

The letter which I did myself the pleasure to write you on the 11th of May, you had not received when yours of the 25th was written.¹ In that I advised you that I had conversed with the General on the subject which passed between us before I left Philadelphia; that he appeared undecided on the occasion, I believe because no arrangement was made, for he expressed himself with regard to you in terms such as the friends who love you could wish. When I received yours of the 25th May, I read it to him; he was much engaged; next day he requested to know the contents again. I put it into his hands; he expressed a desire to do whatever was agreeable to you, dwelt on your abilities, your merits, your sufferings, and on the well-earned claims you have on your country, and intimated that as soon as his arrangements for the campaign should take place, that he would properly consider you. I believe you will have an alternative proposed either to take charge of an important post, with an honourable command, or your station in the field. Your reputation, my dear sir, so established, your honourable scars put it decidedly in your power to take either. A State which has full confidence in you will wish to see its banner entrusted to you. If the command at West Point is offered, it will be honourable—if a division in the field, you must judge

whether you can support the fatigues, circumstanced as you are.² Mrs. Schuyler proposes a jaunt to Philadelphia; if she goes I shall accompany her, and have the pleasure of seeing you. She joins me in every friendly wish; please to make my respects to your lady and her amiable sisters.

Believe me, with the most affectionate regard and esteem, Yours,
most sincerely, &c., &c. Philip Schuyler.

MS not found; reprinted from William B. Reed, *Life and Correspondence of Joseph Reed*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blackiston, 1847), 2:276-77.

¹ Schuyler's May 11 letter has not been found, but Arnold's letter of the 25th concerning "who is to have the Command of the No. River" is in the Schuyler Papers, NN.

² For Arnold's efforts to secure command of West Point and the development of his plan to betray the post to the British, see James T. Flexner, *The Traitor and the Spy. Benedict Arnold and John Andre* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1953), pp. 307-17.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, Philadelphia, June 3d. 1780.

The Gentleman who will have the honor to wait on your Excellency with this letter is the honourable Elbridge Gerry Esquire, one of the Delegates of the State of Massachusetts Bay, who is returning from Congress after a term of more than three years faithful service. He will be happy in paying his respects to your Excellency and in communicating any information in his power.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect, Your Excellency's most obedt. humbe. servt. Oliver Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Gerry, who had been boycotting Congress since February, left Philadelphia this day to return to Massachusetts. Enroute he planned to confer with various state officials, especially concerning fiscal affairs, on which he had acquired considerable expertise because of his long service on the Board of Treasury, and with the Committee at Headquarters at Morristown. There he also agreed to undertake an additional mission for the committee, for which see Committee at Headquarters to Gerry, June 11; and Gerry to Robert Morris, June 11, 1780.

Gerry's first stop on his journey home was Trenton, N.J., from which he wrote the following letter to Ellsworth on June 4.

"I have only Time to inform you that I have conferred with Governor Livingston this morning on the subject of obtaining Supplies of money by promoting the exchange of the old Bills for new, at the rate established by Congress. He entirely approves of the Measure and is determined to use his Influence for giving it Effect, as the best Means for speedily supplying the Treasury. It now rests with you to expedite this business by sending on the new Bills to the several states with all possible expedition, & you are so well convinced of the Importance & necessity of this, as to render every argument in favour thereof, unnecessary. The Assembly of this State are considering

the Plan of Finance & the House of Representatives have carried it by a bare majority & the Council will probably concur. My best Respects. . . .

"[P.S.] I think it will be best to make no general communication of this matter, (*until*) for the present." MiD-B.

Samuel Holten's Dairy

[June 3, 1780]

3. Saturday. The Honl. Mr. Gerry sit out for Boston & Jere with him.¹ I wrote to the honl. Council, to Mrs. Holten (no. 128) & to Mr. Kettell.²

MS (MDaAr).

¹ That is, Jeremiah Sheldon, who was Holten's personal servant.

² Holten's letters to his wife and John Kettell have not been found.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia June 3d. 1780.

The honorable Mr. Gerry is so kind as to take charge of this, & he will inform you of the particular state of affairs here.

I have heard that the honle. assembly has made provision for supplying their delegates with money to defray their expences, but I have not been so happy as to see the resolution, therefore am at some loss to know how to draw? The sum that I stand in need of may appear *nominally* large; but I am sure my colleagues will do me the justice to say that I do not spend money needlessly? I am willing to be accountable for 25,000 dollars if it is delivered to Jeremiah Sheldon who waits on you for this purpose, and for his character I beg leave to refer you to Mr. Gerry or Mr. Partridge? However as I *well* know the calls for money at this time are great, I shall receive with satisfaction any less sum that can conveniently be sent me, with this remark that I must soon draw again, unless the sum is considerable or spend upon my own credit.

I have the honr. to be with the highest respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,

S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honle. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

Samuel Huntington to George Clinton

Sir,

Philadelphia, June 3, 1780.

By the enclosed Act of Congress of the first Instant your Excellency

will be informed, they have directed a Post to be established at Shohoken, and maintained at the Expence of the United States, the Garrison to be under your particular Direction and Superintendence, subject however to the Orders of the Commander in Chief; and to consist of those Troops already voted by Congress for the Defence of the Frontiers of New York, if they can be spared; otherwise by Militia embodied for that Purpose.¹

As the establishing of this Post is under your immediate Inspection, it is needless to suggest the necessity & Propriety under our present Circumstances, of saving Expence in erecting & establishing this Post as far as possible, consistent with its answering the Purpose intended, which is referred to your Prudence and Discretion. I have the honor to be with the highest respect your Excell'ys obed't hbble. servant,
Sam. Huntington, President.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:793-94. RC (N: Clinton Papers). Charred.

¹ *JCC*, 17:478. For New York's efforts to strengthen its frontier defenses, see also New York Delegates to Clinton, April 4, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen, Philadelphia June 3. 1780

I have the honour herewith to enclose for your Information the Report of a Committee of Conference with the Assembly and Supreme Executive Council of this State, as also an Act of Congress of the first Instant respecting Supplies which any State may furnish more than its Quota; And it is with Pleasure I add that since this Conference, the Assembly and Executive Council have adopted such farther Acts and Orders as seem to promise; and if duly executed cannot fail; of Success in procuring speedy Supplies.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest regard Gentln your hbble servant,
Sam Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For the work of the committee appointed to confer with the assembly and council of Pennsylvania, see Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 31, 1780. See also the following entry. The "Act of Congress of the first Instant" enclosed by Huntington is in *JCC*, 17:480; and PCC, item 39, 2:75-76. The committee report upon which this resolve was based is in PCC, item 19, 6:283-86, and *JCC*, 17:479-80, but no copy of it has been found in the collection of Committee at Headquarters papers located in PCC, item 39. There is, however, a copy of it in the Washington Papers, DLC, which was enclosed with Huntington to Washington, this date.

Samuel Huntington to the States

Sir, Circular. Philada June 3. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the first Instant, in addition to the resolutions of the 25th of February; making further Provision respecting such Supplies as any State may furnish other than, or over & above their Quota of Supplies required by the Act of the 25th of February.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ For the resolves setting state quotas of provisions on February 25 when Congress abandoned the system of money requisitions for direct in kind requisitions from the states, see Huntington to the States, February 26, 1780. For the enclosed resolve "of the first Instant" for crediting state contributions made in excess of the February quotas at 6 percent interest, which was an outgrowth of Pennsylvania's pledge to take emergency measures for the immediate relief of Washington's troops, see *JCC*, 17:480; and the preceding entry.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia June 3. 1780

Your Excellency's Letter of the 27th of May being referred to a Committee with Instructions to confer with the Assembly, and Supreme Executive Council of this State, the report of the Committee herewith enclosed will inform your Excellency in some Measure of the Proceedings of this State, on the Subject of Supplies of Men, Money and Provisions for the public Service on the present Emergency, and I have the Pleasure to add that since the Conference above referred to, the Assembly, and Supreme Executive Council have adopted such farther Acts and Orders as seem to promise the wished for Success in procuring Supplies from this State.¹

Enclosed your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 1st Instant, among other Matters making Provision for establishing a Post at Shoheken, subject to the Orders of the Commander in Chief, and also for embodying a Number of Men to assist in guarding the Frontiers of the State of New Hampshire.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedt, and most hbble servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 31; and Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, this date.

² See Huntington to George Clinton, this date; and the following entry.

Samuel Huntington to Meshech Weare

Sir

Philada June 3. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 1st Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that the President & Council of the State of New Hampshire are authorized to embody & maintain at the Expence of the United States any Number of Men not exceeding two hundred & fifty Rank & file with a suitable Proportion of Officers to assist in guarding the Frontiers of that State.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ See *JCC*, 17:478-79; and Nathaniel Folsom to Weare, May 18, 1780, note 1.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. Sunday 4 June 1780, 12 o'Clock at Noon

A Mr. William Finnie, from Williamsburg, in Virginia, is just arrived in Town, and brings the following Intelligence. "That when he was at Baltimore in Maryland, on his Way to this Place, a Number of Letters came to sundry Persons there, from Richmond, the Capital of Virginia, informing that Charlestown capitulated on the 12th ult." The News is mentioned to come by an Express from Governour Rutledge, of South Carolina, to Congress, who was ordered to call on his Route and deliver Despatches to Governour Nash of North Carolina, and Governour Jefferson of Virginia.¹ This is supposed to be the Reason he has not reached Philadelphia. No Particulars are mentioned. The Speculatours, whose Riders travel Day and Night on such Occasions, generally precede the publick Expresses. By a Letter of 31st ult from General Washington, I find the Capture is credited at Head-quarters. What to say against Report so confirmed, I am at a Loss. The Probability certainly is against us. Nothing but official Certainty remains to be expected. If the Event has taken Place we may hourly expect this, as the Express cannot be far off unless some extraordinary Accident has befallen him. I do not like to believe bad News; but we ought to be prepared for it. The Reflections which first present themselves are, that no greater Stroke has befallen us since the Commencement of the War, and none which has required more active and thorough Exertions to recover and repair it, than this will. It is not said on what Terms the Garrison capitulated, but in all Likelihood, they cannot be more favourable than *Prisoners of War*. Their Service is lost to us, probably for the Campaign. The

Finances, evidently mending, will be thrown a-back, and without a speedy Execution of the System of 18 March, perhaps return to wilder Disorder than ever. No Subject whatever requires more Attention, for Money will be more necessary than ever. The Effect upon the Army, as well as upon the People, will too probably be dispiriting, especially at first, but may be directly the Opposite after a little Reflection if the publick Movements can all be made to draw together, and no Chasm or Derangement happen before their Thoughts and Views have Time to collect and accommodate themselves to the Exigency. Bold Counsels are the best in precarious Times. I would submit it to the Legislature whether if their Intelligence turns out Fact, it would not be best to vest the Governour and Privy Council, or a greater Quorum if more proper, with Powers suited to the Cast of the Occasion. The Capture of Charles[ton] and the Arrival of a French Fleet, should it happen, both require it. The utmost reach of the Powers of the State will be necessary in a Model which can be speedy and effective in Execution either to provide against great Evils, or to attempt great Objects. The Legislature of Pennsylvania, which adjourned last Thursday, before this News appeared in any Shape, considering the Greatness of the Crisis, empowered the Executive to proclaim and establish martial Law in Case of Necessity during the Recess of the Assembly, for limited Periods. The Assembly has adjourned to September next. A special Council composed of Members of both Houses might be more agreeable to many, but I say nothing of the Form, only have taken the Liberty to say thus much concerning the Thing itself. A Correspondence between such Body and the Delegates in Congress for the State, might be of great use to the State, should the Legislature be unanimous in adopting the Measure so as to give it weight with the People at large. It also occurs that early and effectual Attention ought to be paid to the State and Preparation of the militia. Great Part of the Enemy's Troops will return to New York immediately on the Reduction of Charlestown, though if they knew their true Interest they would, all leave New York and go to the Southward. In the Event of their coming back, their Disposition to Mischief is too well known to believe they will be pacifick towards New-Jersey. It is not a far-sought reflection, that this Disaster, though great, is not Matter of Dispondence: Mortals see not Futurities, and who can say that Heaven does not mean this to precede Something more important to us than it is to the Enemy. Things much more unexpected have happened. The Enemy must commit themselves on the Ocean before they can appear at New-York. Perhaps it is best. History and Experience say, that young Nations, as well as Men, *[are less able]* than those of riper Age, to bear that Prosperity which is not dashed with some Sharpness of Misfortune. These Things fulfil the Ends of God's

government, where partial Evil is general good. We pity our suffering Brethren, but no man despairs of the Republick.

I am Your Excellency's very obedt Servt,

William Ch. Houston

RC (Nj: State Papers).

¹ For the arrival of the official dispatches from governors Nash and Rutledge, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, June 5, note 2. It was undoubtedly this intelligence that led Samuel Holten to report the following day, "We have accounts from the southward by which it is supposed Charlestown is taken." Holten Diary, MDaAr.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir

Morris Town June 5th. 1780

Your Excellency's letters of the 29th & 31st covering Acts of Congress of the 19th, 26, 27 & 30th Ult. were delivered us on the 2d Instant.

Since our last we have received a letter from the Commander in Cheif, stating the necessity of specific requisitions from the states, for *men, provisions, forage* and the *means of transportation*. We have in consequence adressed ourselves to the several states on the Subject,¹ and made requisitions from each to the amount of *men* estimated by the General; and of supplies agreeable to the other estimates which accompanied his letter and which we inclose, marked A-B and C.² The articles deficient as per the Estimates from No 1 to 9 inclusive are such that it was thought improper to call on the states for them, and these must be supplied by purchase, by the Quarter Master General as soon as he can be furnished with money which we intreat may be as soon as possible.

We are informed that the navy Board at Boston is possessed of a quantity of Duck, sufficient for the Tents which are deficient, As we are not authorized to call on any of the boards for supplies. We request Congress will order this article to be furnished.³

We have not time by this conveyance to transmit copies of our letters, but as those to the states North of Virginia are nearly similar to that of Pensylvania we leave it under flying seal for the perusal of Congress, as likewise that of Virginia,⁴ because the latter varies Considerably from the others. The Militia called for from that state being intended (tho not expressed) for the southern quarter, should the exigences of affairs require their being sent thither.

Your Excellency will please to forward the letters for the states which we inclose, with as much dispatch as possible.

We have retained no Copies of the Estimates, and beg they may be returned to us as speedily as possible.

We have the honor to be with Great Respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obt. Humble servt.

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody⁵

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Schuyler and signed by Schuyler, Mathews and Peabody. Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "A Letter from the Comee at head quarters, June 5, 1780. Read 8. Referred to Mr. J. Jones, Mr Ellsworth, Mr Bee. A. Estimate of provisions for an Army of 40,000 men for 30 days; B. do. of forage for the horses for do., do.; C. do. Waggon & horses for do. Wanting the letter from Commander in chief mentioned within but not sent."

¹ For Washington's statement of the army's needs and the committee's appeal to the states made "in consequence" thereof, see Committee at Headquarters to the States, June 2, 1780.

² In addition to Secretary Thomson's endorsement quoted above, the following notation in another hand was also added to the manuscript, probably in the nineteenth century, as a commentary on this passage: "With Genl. Green's Letter to Genl. Washington May 28. 1780, containing A, B, C." Greene's letter is in PCC, item 39, 1:57-58; his three enclosures are at *ibid.*, 3: 297-311.

For Congress' June 13 response to this letter, see Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, June 15.

³ For which, see *ibid.*, note 3.

⁴ See Committee at Headquarters to the States, June 2, 1780, note 4.

⁵ The committee's secretary, Abraham Brasher, also sent the following brief request to Commissary General Ephraim Blaine this day: "The Committee of Congress request that you repace with all possible dispatch to head quarters, as your presence becomes daily more necessary, and nothing conclusive can be done relative to your department until you arrive here." PCC, item 39, 3:253.

Nathaniel Folsom to Nathaniel Peabody

Sr. Philadelphia June the 5th. 1780.

I Recd. your Feavour last evening of the 31t of May¹ Incloseing a letter from President Weare. I Rote him last Friday² and informed him that the money wood be Redy in abought a month and that I wood Due what lay in my Power to forward it as Soone as Possible. If you have any oppertunity at headquarters hope you will let me Know of it. In Congress we go on in the old Slow way of Dueing buisness, hardly any thing done worth Communicating or you the trouble of hereing. Three Days nearly have been Spent in Determining whether ever the Disputes Shall be Setteld between the Settelers on the grants and the Several Claiments, and when as Soone as it is finnishd I will inclose you a Copy.³ As to South Coralina many and Various are the Reports here but nothing that Can be depended on, but we Expect they must Sooner or later fall in to the

hands of our enemys. I make no Doubt the Committe at head Quarters will due every thing for the Subsistence of the army that is in there Power—on application to the legislature of this State they have Promised to Exert them Selves to the uttermost, and on Saturday I Saw they were driveing on Some Stock.

I am Sr. with Respect your most obt. Humbl Servant,
Nathl. Folsom

RC (PHi: Dreer Collection).

¹ Not found.

² See Folsom to Meshech Weare, June 1, 1780.

³ See New York Delegates to George Clinton, June 2, note 1, and June 5, 1780, note 1.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. 5 June 1780.

You will receive enclosed two resolutions of Congress,¹ which have doubtless already gone from the President in the ordinary Course of Communication. But as Papers sometimes miscarry thought it not amiss to repeat them. That relative to Deserters will certainly be of Moment, should any French Troops, or the Troops of any allied or co-operating Power, ever be landed on the American Shores for the Purpose of giving Assistance in the Prosecution of the War. The Laws relative to Desertion will easily be extended to secure and return them. This is not only the Duty of an Ally, but it is our Interest in many respects, and no Objection, that I know of, can be taken to it.

The other relative to the Defense of the interiour Frontiers against the Incursions of the Savages is important to us. I understood, when lately at Trenton, that there was a Bill before the Legislature for embodying a Number of Militia to protect the upper Settlements. That no Hesitation may hereafter be made relative to the Allowance of Continental Pay and Rations, it would be well to take the Step New-York has taken, and obtain the Approbation and Engagement of Congress or the Commander in Chief; either will be sufficient. Every one must be convinced of the Necessity of supporting the Settlements over the Mountain; for if they are obliged to remove, double, if not treble the Number of Men will be necessary to secure the Country against Impressions, and after all it will not be so effectually done in this as in the other Mode. The Post established in Ulster will be of Advantage in the general Protection, and the Legislature will be able to determine in what Degree we may be benefited

by it. In the Resolutions of 4th April last is mentioned the Body of Men to which this of the 1st inst. refers.²

I have the Honour to be, with due regard, your Excellency's very
obedt hble Servt, William Ch. Houston

RC (Nj: State Papers).

¹ For the resolutions of May 27 and June 1 concerning "Deserters" and "Defense of the interiour Frontiers," see *JCC*, 17:469, 478-79.

² See Samuel Huntington to George Clinton, June 3, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada 5 June 1780, Monday 6 P.M.

The Express mentioned in mine of yesterday to your Excellency is arrived. Enclosed you have the most material Intelligence he has brought.¹ Governour Rutledge's Letter, No 1, carries no Marks of Certainty; he grounds upon nothing better than mere report. The Day agrees with the Accounts from New-York, but this might be a Finesse calculated to intimidate the Country, and slacken the Succours. Though the Probability is that the Town is taken, I do not believe the Event happened on the 12th May. Governour Rutledge could scarcely fail of knowing it in four Days at the Distance of 120 Miles, and less still Governour Nash in 13 Days at the Distance of 270. Besides the latter declares he has an Express at George-Town, 60 Miles from Charlestown for the sole Purpose of advising him on the State of the Town. It is obvious to remark how totally unlike that Country is from our own; that Certainty one Way or the other should not be had at so short a Distance after so long a Time. It is not indeed to be doubted that the Enemy command a Range of Country about the Town much more extensive than they would be able to do in these Northern Parts, better settled and the Face of the Country more favourable than to the Southward: but through the same Difficulties I cannot but think Intelligence would find it's Way among us.

It cannot escape Observation that Governour Nash speaks of the Event as doubtful. Many Circumstances certainly have that Appearance. But it can scarcely be expected not to have happened at all, though not at the Time alledged, because the State of the Country shows no Countenance or Promise of Succour to the Town. This is plain from the total Loss of Communication.

To explain one of Governour Nash's Reflections, that from Governour Rutledge's Letter it is fairly concluded the Falling of the Town involves the Falling of the State, I must inform your Excellency

I have the Honour to be, your Excellency's very obedt. Servt,
William Ch. Houston

¹ For Houston's enclosures—extracts of letters from Gov. Abner Nash of North Carolina and Gov. John Rutledge of South Carolina—see Samuel Huntington to Washington, this date, note 2.

William Churchill Houston to
William Livingston

The bitter Cup of ill Tidings is dashed with a little mixture of a different Quality. Captain Pickles of the Schooner West-Florida is arrived this Evening from Mobile, with Dispatches from General Bernardo de Galvez, who commands the Spanish Troops in that Country, to the President of Congress. They are dated at Mobile the 8th ult. and announce the reduction of that Fort. The articles of Capitulation are inclosed,¹ which with the General's Letter will

appear in the Paper Tomorrow, and will probably reach your Excellency by that Means before this comes to Hand. The Captain's Information is that the Garrison consisted of 800 Regulars besides Militia; and that General de Galvez was waiting for some Shipping in Order to proceed to Pensacola, which if not speedily and largely succoured must soon follow the Fate of this Fortress, and with it the Province of West-Florida. The Captain's Information will probably be published: what I give you is hastily collected and too imperfect to appear. You will be so good as to communicate it to the Legislature. Hard Times make us willing to improve every little Help to break the Fall of Charlestown, should that be realised.

As soon as authentick Intelligence on that Subject comes to Hand it will be forwarded, and doubtless published by order of Congress.

I am, Sir, your obedt hble Servt, William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ The May 8 letter of Governor Gálvez announcing the "reduction" of the British fort at Mobile was read in Congress on June 6. *JCC*, 17:490; PCC, item 97, fols. 390-97. The articles of capitulation are not in PCC. Capt. William Pickles' June 15 memorial seeking reimbursement for monies lent to Oliver Pollock, Congress' agent in New Orleans, was read June 17 and honored on August 5. See *JCC*, 17:523, 700; PCC, item 41, 8:114-16. Pickles had taken possession of Lake Ponchartrain the previous October and forced the submission of the local inhabitants, thus strengthening the claim of the United States to free navigation of the Mississippi. Because of their significance for future peace negotiations, Congress ordered the articles of capitulation of October 16, 1779, and Governor Gálvez's letters of October 21, 1779, and May 8, 1780, transmitted to John Jay in Spain on July 10. See *JCC*, 17:600-601; PCC, item 50, fols. 120, 371-72. A similar set of documents—in the hand of Charles Thomson and now in the Laurens Papers, ScHi—was also apparently given to Henry Laurens, who was at that time in Philadelphia making arrangements for his mission to Holland.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Philada June 5. 1780

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Bearer Monsr de Corny is a Commissary from France, employed to procure the necessary Supplies for the Forces of his most Christian Majesty shortly expected on this Coast to co-operate with the Armies of these United States.¹

In Pursuance of a Conference of a Committee of Congress with the Minister of France in Order to facilitate the Cooperations of the combined Forces,² and prevent all Embarrassments that might possibly arise in procuring Supplies; I am directed by Congress to request your Excellency to afford to Colo Corny the needful Aid and Advice respecting the Mode of purchasing the necessary Supplies for the French Forces, which he shall be able through your Assistance to procure in the State.

It is thought most proper, & likely to be attended with least Embarrassments that the french Commissary Monsr de Corny should make his Purchases with the same Currency with which the Continental Purchasers procure Supplies for our Army; and that proper regulations be observed to prevent Competitions among the Purchasers.

From the Character this Gentleman sustains I doubt not he will render himself agreeable, and his Conduct acceptable, and take the Liberty to recommend him to the favourable Notice of your Excellency.

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S. H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "To Governors Livingston, Clinton, Trumbull & Green." In the original resolve drafted for enclosure with this letter, the executives of New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire were specified. *JCC*, 17:489.

¹ Dominique-Louis Ethis de Corny (1736-90), was the French commissary of war who had accompanied Lafayette to Boston in April to make preparations for the arrival of the French expeditionary force enroute to America under the command of the comte de Rochambeau. Lafayette's arrival was the first good news Congress had received in some time, and as it coincided with British victories in South Carolina the welcome accorded him was extraordinarily enthusiastic. When it became known that he brought news of the impending arrival of a French army, plans for launching a Franco-American attack against New York City came to dominate Washington's strategic thinking for the 1780 campaign. Such an offensive would require new recruits and an enormous amount of provisions, and Lafayette was at the center of arrangements that were made during the following weeks to coordinate deployment of the allied forces. In addition to the logistical work of Corny, Lafayette was also aided by the French minister La Luzerne who often intervened in congressional affairs to promote the various measures required by Rochambeau's arrival. For the work of Corny and Lafayette at this time, see Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda), 3:1-2, 20-24, 28-31, 39-40, 45-49, 55.

² For La Luzerne's May 16 memorial notifying Congress of French plans to send troops to America, and Congress' May 20 resolve for conferring with the French minister "on the means of supplying the forces of his most Christian Majesty," see Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, 1780, note 2. For Congress' resolves of May 27 and June 5 that resulted from conferences held with him for "promoting harmony and forwarding the common views of France and America," and to ensure the co-operation of state officials for Corny's procurement activities, see *JCC*, 17:466-69, 487-89.

Huntington also sent Congress' June 5 resolves for cooperating with the French under cover of a brief note to La Luzerne this day. PCC, item 15, fol. 17.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 5. 1780

I have been honoured with your Letter of the 31st Ultio covering Rivingtons Gazette extraordinary.¹

I have received no official Intelligence from the Southward of the Surrender of Charlestown.

All the Information from that Quarter which is come to hand, I received this Day in a Letter from Governor Nash, covering Copies of a Letter from Govr Rutledge to him, and of an intercepted Letter signed James Simson Copies of all which are enclosed.²

Your Excellency will observe, that although Govr Rutledge's Letter of the 16th of May was enclosed in the Letter from Governor Nash of the 25th of May addressed to me, yet he takes the Liberty to doubt whether Charles Town had surrendered; that the Account wants Explanation though I fear it may eventually prove true.

I have this Moment received authentick Information that the Spaniards have taken Mobile, the Garrison consisting of about 800 regular Troops are made Prisoners, the Articles of Capitulation which are come to hand you will see in the Paper enclosed.³

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's obedt hbble servant,
Sam. Huntington

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Washington's May 31 letter to Huntington is in PCC, item 152, 8:587; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:454.

² Huntington's enclosures, all in the hand of Charles Thomson, are in the Washington Papers, DLC. They consist of (1) a May 25 letter to Congress from Gov. Abner Nash of North Carolina; (2) a May 16 letter to Nash from South Carolina governor John Rutledge; and (3) an intercepted May 5 letter from James Simpson at British headquarters near Charleston to a Rev. Wickman of North Carolina encouraging the loyalists of the Carolina backcountry to hold themselves in readiness to join their British liberators. Simpson, the last royal attorney general of South Carolina, was an adviser to Sir Henry Clinton on southern loyalism.

Although Governor Rutledge had conceded to Nash that he no longer doubted that Charleston had surrendered, Nash avowed that he would not forward such a report until he could "obtain a certainty of the fate of Charlestown."

³ See William C. Houston's third letter to William Livingston, this date.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia June 5th. 1780.

This day the President of Congress received a Letter from Governor Nash, enclosing a Copy of one that he had received from Governor Rutledge; Copys of both I have transmitted to you.¹ From Mr. Rutledge's information, and from a handbill published by Rivington, I fear Charles Town has fallen, & the Troops made Prisoners of War. This will be a severe blow to us if true & there is but a bare possibility to hope it is not so.

I need not have Posted to Phila. in the haste I did, As the business relating to Vermont was the occasion of the Summons. The New York Delegates are impatient to subdue the people settled on the New

Hampshire Grants, & who claim a Jurisdiction of their own;² but I hope and trust, that Congress have more wisdom than to take final Order in this business, before our independence is established; We have business enough on our hands without carving out more at this time.

I expect to hear from your Excellency by the next Post. The information that I may then receive, will determine me as to the time of my setting out from this place. The State is still unrepresented so that Maryland is without a Vote in Congress.³

Congress has not been as yet informed of Mr Jays reception,⁴ tho' there is no reason to doubt but he will be received as Minister of the United States at the Court of Madrid. Mr. Carmichael was at that place settling the form of Mr Jays reception.

I expect that the French Troops will be off our Cape in all this Month; but how come Green to Publish in the Maryland Gazette the particulars of the information that was transmitted to you & the Council.⁵ This publication has been thought to be imprudent as the Enemy may have received information from it. With the greatest esteem & respect, I am, Dear Sir, your most Obedient Servt.

Daniel of S Thos Jenifer

P.S. June 6. The Spaniards have taken Mobile & made the Garrison, consisting of 800, Prisoners of War.⁶ Mr. Dickinson is not in Phila.

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ See the preceding entry, note 2.

² See the following entry.

³ Since the assembly required that two or more delegates represent the state, Maryland had been "without a Vote in Congress" since the death of James Forbes on March 25, even though George Plater remained in Philadelphia and was generally in attendance through May 19. Jenifer presented his credentials from a special election on June 2, but remained in Philadelphia little more than a week. The state was without a vote for over three months, therefore, until the arrival of John Hanson and John Henry on June 14 and 23 respectively. See *JCC*, 17:440-41, 481, 484, 509, 551; and Joseph Jones to James Hunter, June 10, 1780, note.

⁴ For receipt of the first communications from John Jay, see Samuel Huntington to Jay, July 12, 1780.

⁵ The "information" published in the May 26 issue of the *Maryland Gazette* was Congress' May 19 circular letter concerning the French naval and land forces destined for America.

⁶ See William C. Houston's third letter to William Livingston, this date.

New York Delegates to George Clinton

Sir,

Philadelphia 5 June 1780.

The Resolutions of Congress of Fryday last respecting the controverted district of our state were this morning read and have now all the necessary Solemnity for their authentication.¹ We thought it ad-

visible to have some Copies printed in order to their being certified by the Secretary and circulated in such manner as your Excellency and the Legislature may judge best. Maryland and Delaware continue to be unrepresented which retards a final determination on the Claim of independent Jurisdiction assumed by the Vermonters. We cannot, however, entertain the least doubt but that Congress will decide against a usurpation which both in its principles and its consequences has the most dangerous and alarming Tendency. We need not re-assure your Excellency that we shall embrace the earliest opportunity to urge forward a hearing: for we have nothing more at Heart than to put an End to this pernicious Contest.

The Fate of Charles Town is still suspended. Governour Rutledge in a Letter to Governour Nash of North Carolina of the 16th of May last uses these Expressions:² "We have accounts so certain that I think they cannot be doubted that on Fryday last Charles Town surrendered; as yet I have received no authentic Intelligence of the Terms of Capitulation." Mr. Rutledge then resided at Cambden about 60 miles from Charles Town. This disagreeable Report seems to be corroborated by Rivington's hand bill; but the total want of official Information or even private Letters from Friends or Foes, on so important an Event and after near a Month from the time it is supposed to have happened stamps it with strong marks of Suspicion. It is only supposing that the Enemy at the time the Iris sailed from Charles Town which was the 17th of May thought it for their advantage to spread a Report of the Surrender, and we can as easily account for its passing from their Lines thro' the adjacent Country to the Ears of Governour Rutledge, as for its being propagated thro' that Channel of Misrepresentation, Rivington's Gazette.

We have the pleasure to inform your Excellency that the Expedition of Don Bernardo de Galvas, the Spanish Governour of Louisiana, against Mobile has proved Successful. The Garrison of Fort Charlotte of Mobile consisting of 800 regular Troops under the Command of Lieut. Governour Durnford surrendered prisoners of war the 8th of May. It is not to be doubted but that the Conquest of Florida will be pursued with vigour and while the British are gratifying their vengeance against the feeble parts of our Country without the most remote Hope of advancing their Interest or their Honour effectual Measures will be taken for forever annexing that valuable Country to the Crown of Spain.

We have the Honour to be, with the utmost Respect Sir your Excellency's most obedient & most humble servants,

Jas. Duane,

Jno. Morin Scott.

“of Fryday last” seemed to indicate that they “were given a second reading” this day, a more likely interpretation is merely that the June 2 resolutions were printed over the week-end and received a proof reading this morning before Secretary Thomson certified them with his signature. There is no mention of the subject on the journals of Congress this day. See New York Delegates to Clinton, June 2, 1780, note 1; and Burnett, *Letters*, 5:192n. See also Nathaniel Folsom to Nathaniel Peabody, this day.

² See Samuel Huntington to George Washington, this date, note 2.

Philip Schuyler to James Duane

My Dear

Morris town June 5th 1780

My friend General Arnold Complains that he has not received a line from me since I left Philadelphia. I am however not culpable, and my letters must have miscarried, to prevent the like I take the liberty of Inclosing one to him.¹

When the Commander in chief afforded the Committee here a perusal of the resolutions of the 20th ult. the necessity of secrecy on the Contents, was mentiond, and I believe no Communications have been made by any of the Gentlemen, nor by the General or any of his family, And yet I find some people here are advised that the Operations are to be confined to the united States, and that If the Minister of France is not Informed of them, he will soon be; what will be Consequences? I fear more favorable to us, I have already in a former letter² Observed on the Impropriety of the restriction, and every reflection I make on the Subject convinces me more and more of It. I could point out to you as I have done to the General In answer to some questions which he stated to me on what ought to be the *object* of the military operations,³ that they cannot be pointed to the Southward, except in one case and there is not the most distant probability that that will happen, but to transcribe what I have said on the Subject would require more time than I can at present spare. You *(have seen)* will see our last letter to the States,⁴ and the Estimates which Accompany that to Congress of this date, you will observe how vastly deficient we are in what is necessary to prosecute an Enterprize where such a force is required, as is stated In the letters. Is it probable these can be procured under the present circumstances? I really think not, and that restricted as the General is, little advantage is to be expected from this Campaign, Indeed I wish we may not be Exposed to disgrace and ruin.

Webbs regiment wants several Officers, the General will write to Congress on the subject.⁵ I wish the promotions may take place, and the General requested to recommend the officers to the vacancy.

Capt. Van Dyke who has suffered so much In New York, who under the severest tryals has abided by and maintained his principles has a claim to our Attention. Let me Intreat my Colleagues to aid

him In procuring some appointment he wishes to be in the naval line,⁶ every body about head quarters speaks well, very well of him.

Will you be so good as to send me the newspapers, pray do not forget a box of Segars. Mrs. Schuyler wishes to return to Albany, I believe I shall Accompany her, will It be proper for me to request that a member be appointed In my place on the committee here, or will that be of Course, pray advise me. I shall not be long absent from the Army but I wish to be with It as a volunteer, that I may not be confined as I am at present.

For one that has been a General Officer to Attend the army as a Committe man, when It takes the field, is rather a disagreeable situation, It will be more so when the French troops Join. Adieu remember me to your Colleagues, to the ladies of the house, and the Virginia Gentlemen with you.

I am Dear Sir, with great Esteem & Affectionately Your Obedt,
Hum Servant, Ph. Schuyler

RC (NH: Duane Papers).

¹ See Schuyler to Benedict Arnold, June 2, 1780.

² See Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston, May 30, 1780, note 4.

³ See Schuyler to Washington, May 28, 1780.

⁴ Committee at Headquarters to the States, June 2, 1780, note 4.

⁵ Washington apparently did not broach the subject of the officers of Col. Samuel B. Webb's Additional Continental Regiment until he wrote to the Board of War on July 5. Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:123-25. Webb's regiment had been reorganized on April 9, and the Connecticut Assembly on May 11 had authorized its incorporation into the Connecticut Line. In July it was redesignated the 9th Connecticut Regiment. See Wright, *The Continental Army*, p. 238; PCC, item 39, 3:469; and Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, July 23, 1780.

⁶ Capt. Abraham Van Dyke was appointed on July 24, 1780, lieutenant of marines on board the Continental ship *Saratoga*. JCC, 17:612, 650-51, 661.

John Armstrong, Sr., to Horatio Gates

Dear General

Philada. 6th June 1780.

I am now to answer or rather acknow[ledge] the receit of yr. favour of the 10th Ultimo—as being but a few days here, I shall rather give you a Scetch of present appearances & things to be early apprehended than at present attempt any formal answer to yours.

The French troops (expected to be about eight thosand including Marines) are not yet arived tho' daily expected either into the Delaware Bay, or at Rhode Island—of the Land forces, 5000 effective is said to be the nearest mark, these in conjunction with ours, augmented by Militia to the number of 40,000 men, are thought of to form a Blockade agst. N—K. This effort if made will try our finances & other resources (I mean provisions, Forage, Waggon &c) to the very bottom—the treasury is already empty or nearly & of

the Interest of money lent the publick, not One Shilling can be had! yet it is said that the foreign troops must be employed when they come, and that to decline the Object mentioned above will Set us in a bad point of light with our Allies &c. The Marquis Le Fyett, who is now at Camp, I find is very fond of it. This business in my Opinion cannot be attempted till after Harvest. This morning bro't us the depressive intelligence of the fall of Charlestown, by letters from Mr. Laurens dated at Wilmington which gives the Surrender a greater appearance of truth than former accts had done, yet not fully ascertained but as good as granted on all hands. The expectation of the French troops well known to Sir Harry Clinton may favour the residue of Our Southern possessions, by recaling their force to New York.

The demands of the Southern Gentlemen you may be Sure are very urgent upon Congress for farther aid to that Country & the Legislature of Virginia in a late adress hath conjured us to that purpose. What may be proper to be done cannot so well be determined until the reinforcement arive & the farther movements of the Enemy to the South become more evident. On perceiving that a motion wou'd probably be made for sending you to the South—I moved your being Sent for to this City, urging the propriety of every assistance in forming the Arrangements of the Campaign &c. From One quarter I was opposed with the immediate necessity of your taking the command of the Southern Militia, with the Maryland line &c. for the defence of those States—this I thought proper to parry for the present, with the approach of Sir John Johnston who is fortifying in that Country, and may have, or expect a much greater force in his rear than the Six hundred which at present appears—the indigested State of our affairs & the light we require from future events—that Baron DeCalb was gone forward &c. So that on the whole the debate produced for the present no more than the revival of a few past transactions, and the good Opinions wch. naturally follow them. In the Idea of Consultation respecting the Arrangements for the Campaign, it was alledged that as the House had a Standing Committee with the Commander in Chief, that must suffice. From these hints you will naturally See, that your call to the field may be Set down as Certain, but the time when, & the place where, as uncertain; it may be in a fortnight, and yet may not be until the Fall.¹ I confess I cou'd wish your presence here & a Visit to the Army might have it's utility, on the other hand, the errand that at this time wou'd lead a man from his own house as a volentier, ought to be irresistable, the expence & Scarcity of money, being equally indiscriptible! Your intimate friends will however be much obliged by your Sentiments on the business of the Campaign, and also on your Own private wishes, which we know will be governed by the laws of reason, and of Arms. As to Charlestown I'm now obliged to think

we had better compose ourselves and take our next Steps, yet can I hardly be persuaded that Genl. Lincoln, unable to defend the place, will not attempt to get out more or less of the Continental troops either by land or by Water. As to our finance, at Once in the lowest & most delicate Situation, it must wholly depend on the Success of the resolution of the 18th of March last, and therefore the concurrence of the States is of all things to be wished & endeavoured. Pennsylvania, altho' without money has made a vigorous effort not only to rais troops for the Campaign, but to provide a temporary Supply in the Article of Meat for our Army lately starving which is beside the Quota assigned her. It's true the troops are necessary to her immediate defense agst. the depredations of the Indians. Our Merchants have I hear, agreed to give the new money a currency so far as is in their way, and I hope all the States will concur in their Several Laws to establish the resolution mentioned above. I hope you will have other letters by the Doctor—And am Dear General, with my best respects, to your Lady and Major Gates, Your very Affectionate friend, And humble Servt, John Armstrong

[P.S.] I am better pleased with the Simplicity & temperance of the Chevaliers Table than I expected, except the innumerable Sweet Meats & Deserts of which there is a great redundance.

Johnston I believe will be repelled by the York-line of the Army & some Militia of that State gone up for that purpose.

RC (NHi: Gates Papers).

¹ Congress resolved this day "to take into consideration the state of the southern department" on Friday June 9, but the subject was apparently not taken up until June 13, when Gates was unanimously appointed to the southern command. *JCC*, 17:492, 498, 508. The journals contain little information on these proceedings, but for Armstrong's efforts during this period to ensure that Gates' assumption of authority in the south would be smooth and effective, see Armstrong to Gates, June 15, 1780.

Thomas Bee to Henry Laurens

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 6 June 1780

I arrived here two days ago & had the pleasure of receiving your favor of the 9th May by Post, I was sorry to find you still detained at Wilmington & no fixed prospect of proceeding either way. If your presence in Europe was ever necessary, A fact that cannot be disputed, it will certainly be more so, if Charles Town has or should fall, than ever, & I cannot think with you that there will be any occasion for a renewal of your powers, but you will be the best Judge yourself, as yet I know nothing of the Extent of the commission you are vested with, having only taken my seat yesterday.¹ My Attention is much taken up at present with my family who are preparing for

Inoculation, & my Mind is intirely fixed towards Charles Town, for the fate of which we have greatest reason to fear the worst, but as yet we are without any certain Advices later than the reduction of Fort Moultrie, this gives us some glimering hopes that the report of its surrender the 12 Ult. is still without foundation. If the contrary should prove to be the case, God knows what will become of us, for I dont find we have any further assistance to Expect from this quarter, unless the French Fleet arrives, which I fear will be too late to be of service to Charles Town. We shall know in a few days what we may Expect; as the several Matters Mr. Harleston had in charge are now before a Committee of Congress & will be reported upon in a Day or two, you shall know the result by the first Conveyance, in the mean time I remain Dr. Sir, your Obt. hum Sert, Tho. Bee

[P.S.] I inclose you the Days paper which contains nothing of consequence except the surrender of Mobille to the Spaniards.

RC (PHi: Laurens Papers).

¹ According to the journals, Bee took his seat as a South Carolina delegate on Tuesday, June 6, rather than the 5th. *JCC*, 17:490.

Thomas Burke to Anthony Wayne

Dr Sir

[June 6, 1780]

Major Lee, in the card which you politely handed to me, having referred me to you for an elucidation of what passed yesterday at Doctor Sheal's table,¹ I must now address my self to you on that Subject, which his mistake has, undeservedly, rendered of Some importance, and I am happy that he has made choice of a Gentleman to whom I can with the greatest Confidence Commit my honor.

From the Conferance, which you favored me with this morning, I have discovered, that he has taken Offence at my desiring to refer every thing Serious to a future Opportunity. This I did at two periods with different Intentions. The first merely to elude a Conversation which was Irsom to me and which Major Lee particularly pressed upon me, and which, in my Opinion has already been Continued beyond the line of good breeding.

I wished to Convey no other Idea than, that Serious Subjects were not then well timed, and were never agreeable to me after Certain hours in the day, which were then over, expecting that Such a hint would be Sufficient to remind the major that he ought not to expect me to forego my own disposition for Chearfulness, And to take up his for Seriousness, and I recollect having explained this Intention more fully by this Expression "Allow me to trifle when it is my hour for trifling."

The Second was to convey to Major Lee my Sense that if he was offended, I thought the place improper for an explanation, and that I did not chuse, hastily, to give any that I would take a proper time when I could, coolly, consider what has passed and distinguish between captious petulance, and the feelings of a man of honor, for tho' I was and always am resolved to do nothing in Consequence of the former, yet I have the highest respect and most Sacred regard for the latter, and if ever I am so unfortunate as to offend them thro' mistake or Inattention, I hold my self bound by every powerful principle to make attonement. Unconscious as I was of any Intentional offense, the time and manner of the Major's calling on me Suggested to me the former as what gave rise to it, while on the other hand my Esteem for, and high Opinion of him Strongly forbid my entertaining any Such Idea. While my mind was thus ballancing, he used the word serious, and I then assured him he should have as serious an Answer in the morning as he might think proper.²

During the first period you were present, and to you Sir, I beg leave to refer whether my words or Manner imported any thing which could be deemed offensive to the most Nice and Scrupulous honor of a Young and gallant Soldier? For I think the Major entitled to every allowance due to Such a Character, which I am extremely desirous of cherishing. If your Opinion be for the affirmative of this Question I then Sir do not Scruple to declare that the major entirely mistook my Intentions which never were to give him offence. If your Opinion be for the Negative, I Shall then decline all Explanations by words, and Shall attend the Major's Summons for any purpose, the most serious that he may wish, agreeably to my promise of yesterday Evening.

As your Opinion shall determin, on the above Question, you have my permission to declare to Major Lee either alternative.³ And with the highest Confidence in you, I am most truly yr. obt.

Thos Burke

RC (PHi: Wayne Papers). Endorsed: "6th June 1780, from Doctr Burke."

¹ For the confrontation between Major Henry Lee and Burke on June 5 while Burke was dining with Dr. Hugh Shiell and Wayne, see John S. Watterson, *Thomas Burke: Restless Revolutionary* (Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1980), p. 149.

² This morning [i.e. June 6] Lee apparently challenged Burke for an explanation of his conduct the previous evening, to which Burke sent the following reply:

"As I do not recollect either the observation you allude to, or any reply of mine which could admit of so extraordinary a Construction as that which you are pleased to make, I must request you to Assist my memory by Stating them.

"If you have taken up your opinion without any reasonable ground I shall desire to be excused from giving any Explanations, but if, through mistake or Inadvertence, I have given you just cause for your Apprehension I shall do every thing that can be expected from a Gentleman." Wayne Papers, PHi.

To "Assist" Burke's "memory," Lee had referred him to Wayne, resulting in the "Conferance" that is the subject of this letter.

³ Wayne's intercession undoubtedly prevented a duel between Lee and Burke and

"put a happy period to that affair," as Wayne explained to Burke in a letter of this date. See *N.C. State Records*, 14:840. See also Burke to Wayne, June 15, 1780, note 3.

James Duane to Philip Schuyler

Philadelphia 6 May 1780 say June

Accept my dear General, my Thanks for your favour of the
 .¹ Like you I feel for the Want of Power and Decision in the great national Council, and of active Perseverence in the people at large. But while both are to be ascribed to obvious, nay necessary, Causes it will be vain indeed to repine. To a republican form of Government a Jealousy in conferring extensive Authority is natural: and equally natural is it for Men to relax and become supine after long and violent Exertions. However Experience has proved, and I trust it will prove again, and as often as may be necessary, that Distress and Calamity will rouse us to a Suitable display of *publick* Confidence and *private* Virtue; and that *both* cooperating will be abundantly sufficient to enable us to surmount the pressing difficulties which surround us. The Apprehension of the Loss of South Carolina, the real distresses of the Army, and the Insistence of the Enemy, have already had a very considerable Effect on the Legislature, as well as the Whiggs of this State. I am firmly perswaded that they are making great Exertions, that meat may be found here to feed the Army for five or six weeks and that afterwards the Eastern States will produce a competent Supply. I am not quite so easy in my Mind on the Articles of Bread and Pay altho' these I am persuaded may also be drawn forth on an urgent Call, and such a one rings loudly in our Ears. Men and Courage will not be wanting when the Danger or the prospect of Deliverance approach in fuller View. While I entertain these Sentiments I can examine the gloomy side of the Prospect tho' not without pain & Solicitude, yet without being deserted by the pleasing Hope of combating All our difficulties, and rising superior to the Assaults of our implacable Enemies!

But I must defer this Speculation or lose the Conveyance for the Clock strikes four and the post cannot wait. In a word I think I may venture to assure you that no Requisition from the Commander in Cheif which Congress has the Means of complying with will be refused: and, on the other hand, I have no doubt but his Wisdom & Vigour will point out what is proper. That you will be near to assist him I regard as a fortunate Circumstance. Adieu Dear Sir present my respectful Compliments to Mrs. Schuyler, to the General & Family at head Quarters; and believe me to be, Dear Sir, with great Regard, Your Affectionate & most obedient Servant, Jas Duane

P S. I could give you some Reasons to doubt whether Charles Town

was surrendered the 12th of May; but they are not satisfactory to my own Mind.

No Segars to be had for money. I will try R Morris's Liberality or if that fails send you pipes & Tobacco.

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ Duane may be referring to Schuyler's letter to him of May 13, in which Schuyler had observed that "A degree of Inertia pervades all popular bodies" and recommended that Congress "lodge dictatorial powers either In the Commander in Chief, or In him Conjointly with a Small Committee of Congress."

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia June 6. 1780

By the enclosed paper of this day your Excellency will see the Spaniards are in possession of Mobile.¹ There are no late official Accounts from South Carolina, but from a variety of circumstances there is much reason to apprehend that Charlestown is in the hands of the Enemy & that the Garrison capitulated about the 12 of May.

The war will probably be very serious with us this Campaign & it is to be wished all may duly expect & be prepared for it.

Some of the new bills for Connecticut will I hope be forwarded the begining of next week.² What the Eastern States have done on the resolutions of the 18th of March your Excellency is fully informd. of. N York has adopted the Measure with unanimity & spirit & pledged their forfeited Estates as a fund for their Bills.³ The Assembly of New Jersey it is said have neerly compleated their Acts for adopting the measure. This State your Excellency will see in the enclosed paper.⁴ The Assembly of Delaware are convening again & it is to be hoped will have wisdom & firmness enough to do right. Maryland meets again the 7th of this month. Mr Jenifer a delegate from that State says they will undoubtedly adopt the measure & execute it, as not only the people but a decided majority both in Senate & Assembly approve it. A question arose when their Assembly were last together between them & the Senate, whether the new bills should be a Tendery, on this they grew warm & adjourned. They have probably by this time cooled & discovered that they were disputing about a circumstance not very essential. Virginia Assembly are together & there is every reason to expect they will adopt the measure pretty unanimously.

There is nothing very late from Europe; nor any other particulars yet recd. of the engagement in the West Indies than what is taken from the English Accounts. We hear nothing yet of the arrival of the french fleet, but shall begin to look out for them in a week or ten days.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest Respect, your Excellency's
most obdt. humb. Sert. Oliver Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Ellsworth most likely enclosed this day's *Pennsylvania Packet*, which printed Gov. Bernado de Gálvez's letter on the capture of Mobile.

² See Ellsworth to Trumbull, June 8, 1780.

³ For the official arrival of New York's act to implement the congressional resolves of March 18, see New York Delegates to George Clinton, June 16, 1780, note 3.

⁴ This day's *Pennsylvania Packet* printed the Pennsylvania act for "Funding and Redeeming the Bills of Credit of the United States."

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia June the 6th. 1780

Last evening I Recd. your Favor of the 8th of May¹ and you may Rely upon it nothing Shall be wanting in my Power to forward the new Emission as Soon as it can be got Ready—which I Expect will be in less than a month.

We have Reports to day from all Quarters that Charlstown is taken but no Certainty from any Quarter. However it Seems we have Reason to fear it will be the Case Soon. We have not yet Recd. any authentic accounts of the ingagement in the Westindes boath Sides Claiming the Victory but we have the most Reason to believe the English came off Second best.

The Derangement of our finances and the length of time it takes for the new Plan of Supplying the army to take Place Creates many Difficultys in the Camp and trouble on that account in Congress. I am Sr. with grate Respect your most obt. Humle Servent.

Nath. Folsom

P.S. I Rote you last Fryday² on the Subject of your Letter, hope you will Recive it.

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ Not in PCC.

² Undoubtedly Folsom's letter to Weare of Thursday, June 1.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir. Philadelphia June 6th. 1780

I have the honor of inclosing a copy of a letter from Governor Rutledge of S. Carolina to Governor Nash of N. Carolina, which came to hand yesterday by express;¹ I am sorry the contents are so

unfavourable; However, I hope it will have this effect, that the good people will see the absolute necessity of great exertions this campaign.

I have the pleasure of congratulating the honorable assembly on the success of our Spanish friends against the common enemy at fort mobile, for particulars, I beg leave to refer you to the printed paper.

I have the honor to be with the highest esteem & regard, Sir, your most obedient Servant.

S. Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ See Samuel Huntington to George Washington, June 5, 1780, note 2.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 6 June 1780

I have an Opportunity to enclose your Excellency the Paper of this Morning¹ containing the Letter of Brigadier de Galvez and the Articles of Capitulation at the Surrender of Mobile.

The Paper also contains the Act of the Legislature of this State on the Proceedings of Congress of 18 March last. I regret the Suspension-clause, not that I believe any material Injury will arise from it, because the Intelligence from Rhode-Island whose Legislature met the 2nd instt, from New York who met some Time since, from Maryland who meet the 7th inst and from Virginia now sitting, the Measure will soon be adopted in a Majority of the States; but such a Suspension looks dubious, timid and indecisive, and were the same to be done in other States, what would be the Effect on publick Measures!

To this Bill is tacked the Act on the recommendation of Congress of 27th ult respecting Deserters,² a Subject which the Legislature will, I doubt not, attend to.

The Paper also contains an Act for producing a Defense on the Frontiers of Pennsylvania, a Subject not uninteresting to us.

And in the last Place some very good and seasonable Advice from a serious Whig.

If I can obtain them from the Office, I will enclose the Proceedings of Congress of Yesterday, recommending to the several States to countenance and assist such as may be employed to procure Necessaries from the co-operating Fleet and Army shortly expected.³ A Gentleman in the Character of Commissaire de Guerre is now attending to that Business and getting it in a proper Train.

Send you also Extract of a Letter from Connecticut⁴ which the

President has been so obliging as to communicate. In the Stile of the old Proverb "the Pot boils, we ought to be ready with our Forks."

I am, Your Excellency's obedt and very hble Servt.

Publick

William Ch Houston

RC (MHi: William Livingston Papers).

¹ This day's *Pennsylvania Packet*.

² See *JCC*, 17:469.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Certain States, June 5, 1780.

⁴ Not identified.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir,

Philada. June 6. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 2d Instant, containing sundry resolutions respecting the District of Country commonly known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants.¹

I have the honour to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

P.S. June 10. You have also enclosed an Act of Congress of the 9th Instant assigning the second Tuesday in September next for hearing &c the Disputes respecting the New Hampshire Grants in the Manner expressed.²

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "To the President of the Council of Massachusetts Bay. N.B. The like verbatim to New Hampshire & New York."

¹ For this June 2 resolve and the immediate background to Congress' recent proceedings on the New Hampshire Grants claims, see *JCC*, 17:482-85; and New York Delegates to George Clinton, May 21, note 3, June 2, note 1, June 5, 1780, note 1.

² *JCC*, 17:499. For the postponement of hearings on the Vermont issue, see also James Lovell to Samuel Adams, February 1, 1780, note.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia June 6. 1780

By the Paper enclosed you will see that the Spaniards are in Possession of Mobile.

The most particular Intelligence which I have received from the Southward is enclosed in my letter to his Excellency General Washington which goes by the same Conveyance with this;¹ & to which I must beg leave to refer you for want of Time to transcribe the Copies.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Gentln. your most obedt & most hbble servt,

Sam. Huntington

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington to Washington, June 5, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Sir,

Philadelphia June 6, 1780

For your Information I have herewith enclosed a Copy of the report of a Committee appointed to receive the Communications from the Minister of France relating to Supplies &c, and the Resolution of Congress of the 5th Instant consequent thereon.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest Regard, Gentlemen, your most obedt and hbble servant, Sam Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:487-89; and Huntington to Certain States, June 5, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 6. 1780

I am directed by Congress to inform your Excellency that in their Opinion it is expedient for Major Lee with the Corps under his Command to Proceed immediately to South Carolina, unless his March to the Southward should counteract or embarrass such Plan of Operation as you may have concerted with Intention of employing that Corps otherwise.

The Foot belonging to that Corps have marched to the Southward some Distance from hence, how far I am not able to say. The Horse I am informed are in and about Darby. Major Lee is now in this City. As Congress have never given any Orders to direct Major Lee in his March, and are ignorant of Occurrences that may have taken place since he received Marching Orders, I am directed to communicate the Sense of Congress as above expressed, with the fullest Confidence that your Excellency will give such Orders respecting Major Lee's Corps as shall appear most conducive to the public Service, and Safety of the United States.¹

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedt hbble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Washington had ordered Maj. Henry Lee's corps to march to the relief of the southern department on March 30, 1780, but in the face of intelligence portending the fall of Charleston he had ordered Lee on May 20 "to halt your Horse and Foot 'till further orders." Although Congress this day debated a committee report rec-

ommending that Lees corps be ordered immediately to resume its march, no such resolve of Congress was entered on Secretary Thomson's journal. The issue was moot, however, for even before he received this directive Washington had already decided to order Lee's corps to return to the main army in consequence of his certainty that Charleston had fallen. See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:179, 183-84, 238-39, 258, 397, 488-89, 19:51; *JCC*, 17:491-92; and *PCC*, item 1, vol. 27.

James Madison to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir

Philadelphia Jun 6th. 1780

A Vessel from West Florida has brought to the President of Congress intelligence from Govr. Galvez of the surrender of Mobile. No other particulars than those contained in the inclosed paper are mentioned, except the verbal report of the Capt. that the Garrison consisted of about 800 including inhabitants &c. Seven or eight vessels have just arrived from the W. Indies as you will also observe in the inclosed paper but they bring no satisfactory information concerning the late engagements between the two fleets. The Address from the Genl Assembly was yesterday immediately on its receipt laid before Congress and referred to a Special Committee, on whose report it will probably be considered in a committee of the whole.¹ I flatter myself that the arrival of the French Armament which is hourly expected will place our affairs in a less melancholy situation than their apprehensions seem to paint them. There is little doubt but the conquest of the Southern States was the object of the operations of the present Campaign, but I can not think the Enemy will pursue that object at the manifest risk of N. York. It is more probable they will leave a strong Garrison in Charleston, and carry back to N. York the residue of their forces. If they should endeavour to extend their acquisitions in the Southern States, it must proceed from an Assurance from England that a superior naval force will follow the french fleet to frustrate their views on the American Coast. I cannot suppose that however intent they may have been on taking post at Portsmouth, that they will venture in the present prospect to spread themselves out in so exposed a situation.

With great respect & sincerity I am Dr Sir, Yr. friend & Servt.

James Madison Junr.

RC (DLC: Madison Papers). Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:39.

¹ The May 24 "Address" of the Virginia assembly concerning the defense of the southern states was read in Congress on June 5 and referred to a committee whose report of June 7 was postponed for "farther consideration" on "friday next." The previous day, however, Congress had already made "the state of the southern department" an order of the day "on Friday next." By June 13, the day Horatio Gates was ordered to take command of the southern department, Congress had decided to appoint a second committee "to consider and report a plan for the defence of the southern states." The committee report of June 7 was subsequently endorsed "Ob-

solete" by Charles Thomson. See *JCC*, 17:487, 492-94, 498, 508; and *PCC*, item 20, 2:242-43.

John Morin Scott to Ezra L'Hommedieu

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 6th June 1780

Your favor by Mr. Elting I recd. yesterday afternoon & embrace the opportunity of his Return to answer it. We have been extreemly impatient under the total Silence of all our Friends in Public Office, who if they knew how much Pleasure We derive from their Intelligence would certainly be frequent in favoring Us with a Line or two. Our plan of finance has it seems met with the same fate in our State as in others—reprobated at first out of doors, from the Arts of Speculators; yet when well understood most generally approved; tho' indeed no State but ours has carried their reprobation to such a Height as to stop in any degree the Circulation of the continental Money. The four New England States have legislatively adopted it & sent Us their Acts. I most ardently wish we may soon have the pleasure of presenting one from ours in its favor. The double provision You speak of for funding the Money to be Emittted on the plan I highly approve of. It is the very same I had the Honor of proposing to the Governor in a Letter some Time since.¹ I greive for the distresses of that State which for a thousand Reasons is and ever will be peculiarly dear to Me. I think the Governors presence in the upper part of the Country is highly necessary; and flatter myself that his good Sense & military active Spirit will have salutary Effects; and that the cooperations of our Militia with the New York Line will make Sir John repent of an Expedition so disgraceful to Humanity. The devastation of our frontiers by the Savages I predicted. Nothing less could be expected from their Vindictive Temper. For this reason and the Inaction to which Sullivans fruitless Expedition reduced our Grand Army in the last Campaign I disapproved of that Expedition. We cannot exert ourselves too much to answer the Expectations of our generous Ally; particularly as the strong assurances we gave him by our Communications through his Minister in Janry. last make our utmost Exertions for the present Campaign a debt of *national* Honor. And tho' in a full Confidence of ample and compleat Preparations on our part, the royal Friend of the American States, is sending a Fleet and Army to our direction, I fear, that, unless We strain every Nerve, we shall become a Bye-word among the Nations and in a great Measure be neglected, if not sacrificed in the ensuing Treaty of Peace.

By your Account of the Means to which our Legislature are to betake themselves for Supplies, one would imagine that the Taxes

have not been so productive, as, after paying the drafts on the Treasury to leave any Money in it. If so, surely there must be some capital defect either in the Imposition or Collection of the Taxes which call, loudly call, on the Wisdom & Honor of the Legislature for Correction. The Reputation of our State with Congress, with the Army, with the Minister of France stands foremost in the List. For God sake, for the Sake of Liberty & the hitherto immaculate Honor of our State let us maintain that first Rank; let Us continue to be *prime inter pares*! Let no Means be unessayed, no difficulty unsurmounted. Tho' I am sorry that there was a Necessity for selling any of the Confiscated Lands so soon; yet I am glad they sold at so good a price. I wish for the future we may be sparing of such Sales; and endeavor to supply our Wants by Taxes.

I forgot to mention to You that the Legislature of this State have also passed a Law in favor of our plan of finance; the preamble to which You have in the inclosed paper,² as also another for Supplies. Besides this just before they rose they vested the Governor & Executive Council with most ample powers for rendering the Abilities of this State productive in Supplies to relieve our Army in their present distressed Condition. Their want of Necessaries, as well as the destitute Condition of the posts in the Highlands, are almost daily painted in the most lamentable Colours in Letters from the General & the Committee at Head Quarters. About a week ago two New England Regiments paraded with their Arms, Accoutrements and Packs, and seemed determined to go home or seek a Sustenance by Arms. The Mutiny ran so high that one of their officers in Attempting to quell it received a Blow. They were however after much difficulty prevailed on to retire to their Tents with a Sullenness & Gloom in their Countenances which clearly expressed that their mutinous Temper was by no Means subdued. And can any Thing less be expected my dear Friend, from an Army who have for Months past lived almost entirely without Meat and been almost seven Months without pay? It is said they are preparing for the Field. But how are they to take the field, without provisions, without a Sufficiency of Tents & Camp Equipage, without horses, or a Sufficiency of Forage if they had them? All these are wanting; not because the Country is destitute of them; but because our Credit & our Treasury are both exhausted. There are I believe Members in the Legislature who know I disapproved of the Address of Congress of Sepr. last³ and was the only Member who opposed the Republication of it. I was displeased with it because it was calculated to cast the Odium of our Calamities on the States, when it justly laid *elsewhere*; because it excited most impolitically the Tender Feelings in favor of Widows & Orphans whose Losses should have been provided for in a Special Way, & not by an Appretiation of the whole Currcy. to the enriching of Commissaries, Quarter Masters and Speculators at the Expence

of the Ruin of the Country, by compelling it to pay a debt of nominal Value, by a Tax equal to Specie; and because Congress thereon pledged their Faith agt. New Emissions on the delusory promises of ample Loans and the equally delusory Expectation of a punctual payment of the Quotas by the States. Hence have sprung all our present distresses. Whereas had Emissions been continued, Depreciation which grew rapid by stopping the press, would have continued to be gradual; and even had it attained to 120 for one, the Evil might have been as effectually remedied by our plan of Finance as it now can, and we should have had Money to enable our army to take the Field properly appointed. Congress now see this; and are grown Sick of Addresses. I hope they never will in future substitute the Flowers of Rhetorick in the room of plain unadorned Good Sense; or if they should, I hope those painted Shadows will never more so fatally & successfully alleviate the eager Embraces of the States. We have been taught enough by Experience that Handsome Addresses & Resolutions however agreeable they may appear on paper, never make an Army figure in the Field, never vanquish a potent Enemy. They please a while; then vanish,

“and like the airy Fabrick of a Vision

“Leave not a Wreck behind.”

Before I quit the subject of Finance I must tell You, that there is the greatest Reason to believe that the Legislature of New Jersey now sitting will adopt it and that the like will be Done by Virginia whose Legislature is now sitting; that Maryland whose Legislature is to meet in a very few days after having ended their last Session without bringing the Business to effect, because they unhappily connected it with another Subject of great Contest between the two Houses, determined on their parting to separate the two Subjects at their next Meeting, which will be This day week; and that Delaware, tho' their Legislature broke up without doing any Thing with the plan of Finance, probably waiting to see what the other States would do, will now be ashamed of a Singularity on the Subject. I doubt not but the New Emission will be speedily sent forward to our State. But remember my Friend that it can only issue in a certain proportion to the Money brought in by Taxes, which from the experienced Backwardness in Collection; & the Substitution of Certificates in the room of Money, in our & some of the other States, & the repeatedly necessary drafts on the different Treasurys will disable the issuing of the new Money in such immediate large Quantities as our present critical Exigencies require.

You ask for my Sentiments on the tender Law. Tho I heartily wish my plan could be adopted as to old debts, I have no great Objection to its being extended to debts contracted since depreciation began. The difficulty with Me on that Head is how a Scale of depreciation can be settled. Depreciation has been some Time stationary, some-

times less, some Times more rapid, at the same periods different in different parts of the State, & yet it is evident that a Scale of depreciation must be given in the Bill. For if it should only provide *that the State of depreciation at the Time of the contracting of the debt shall be the Rule*, You will leave to Juries that Latitude which will in a great Measure continue the Confusion You speak of. Another Objection is the impossibility of preventing the Creditor from having the depreciation doubly made good to him. It must be supposed that every Seller on Credit in the price of his Commodity had an Eye to depreciation and by enhancing his price with a View to this, he doubtless increases the depreciation. Nor does Justice seem to require a provision in favor of those who sold with their Eyes open while the Money was depreciating. Add to this it will be impossible to distinguish between debts of a private & of a public Nature. The latter should not I think be provided for but on the Recommendation of Congress; and they are Still undetermined what to do about them. It is well known that Sellers have in most Instances taken a shameful Advantage of the public. And it is matter of great difficulty to separate between those & others—a future provision may be perhaps most prudent. But Justice cries aloud for an Immediate one with respect to old Debts.

We tremble for the fate of Charlestown. We have nothing official which shews it is determined. We fear for the unwelcome Tale every Moment. What We have You will find in our official Letter Directed to the Governor. Some other unofficial Accots. of this day render the Surrender more probable & yet it is disbelieved by Some.

Permit me to close this long Letter with the most earnest Sollicitation for the Honor of the Delegates of the State & for that of the State itself as it is interested in their due Support. We are here without Money & almost without Credit. Not a farthing have I been able to get out of the continental Treasury; nor do I expect any from that Quarter. The Money I bro't from home; & by bringing of which I am sure I have distressed my family, is spent, chiefly in paying for my Board, having bought very little Cloathing, & spent not a farthing in pocket Money. I am now in arrear near two Months for my Board and am dunned for it almost every Morning. Besides this a Common Bill for parlour hire, Liquor, Candles &c. of upwards of forty pounds. This Bill accrued partly while You & Colonel Floyd were here and General Schuyler & Mr Livingston left Me to pay it. But for want of procuring Money from the Treasury I have not been able to do it; and I am daily dunned for it. In short I cannot stand it much longer & must return home if I am not speedily relieved. We in an official Letter to the Governor stated our distresses, increased by the addition of 50 per Cent for our Board. Every Thing is here 100 per Cent dearer in specie prices than in 1774. Our Convention allowed its delegates 4 dollars when Money was not depreciated. We ask only

6 Specie or their Value at 60 for one. We hope it will not be thought unreasonable. I hope an immediate Remittance at that or some other reasonable rate may be made so that I may be Reinbursed for my Support from the 18th of Feby. till this Time and for my future Support. I most earnestly entreat We may not be left in such pressing difficulties.

The inclosed Resolutions we procured as a temporary Relief agt. the disorders on the Grants till nine States exclusive of those interested in the Controversy shall be represented.⁴ The Report of the Committee containing those Resolutions was violently opposed & voted agt. by Ellery who is no longer a Member, was voted agt. by Holton & by Matlack a New Member for this State & by Mr Jennifer the only Member from Maryland. The Yeas & Nays were called and the only Nays were Ellery, Holton, Matlack and Jennifer.⁵ By the arrival of Mr McKean there are now nine uninterested States. We shall therefore attempt to get a day fixed for a Hearing.⁶

I hope our Legislature will continue sitting till the last Moment in June. The French fleet will probably arrive by that Time; & perhaps something will be wanted further of the State towards the Operations of the Campaign. A most violent Fit of the Fever & Ague obliged Me to leave this Letter unfinished till just now.⁷ It is gone off; and I can now with Composure tell You how much & how sincerely I am, Dear Sir, Your sincere friend & most obedt. Servt.

Jno. Morin Scott

P.S. Be pleased to present my Compliments to the Lieutenant Govr. & the Members of Senate & Assembly.

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980).

¹ See Scott to George Clinton, May 12, 1780.

² The *Pennsylvania Packet*, June 6, 1780.

³ Scott was referring to Congress' September 13, 1779, circular letter to the states, for which see these *Letters*, 13:495.

⁴ See New York Delegates to Clinton, June 2, 1780, note 1.

⁵ See *JCC*, 17:484.

⁶ The New York delegates attempted to obtain a "Hearing" on June 9, but they were disappointed when New Hampshire was granted a delay until "the second Tuesday in September next." *JCC*, 17:499. See also New York Delegates to Clinton, May 21, 1780, note 4; and Samuel Huntington to Certain States, this date.

⁷ When Scott resumed writing and completed this letter can only be conjectured.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 7–8, 1780]

7. Wednesday. I dined with the minisr. Mr. Lovells son arrived here.

8. Thursday. I recd. a letter from Mrs. Holten & Mr Kettell. It is

said Charlsn. was not taken the 18th of May. Mrs. Holten informs me Mr. Nourse dec[ease]d Apl. 7th.

MS (MDaAr).

Charles Thomson to John Jay

Dear Sir,

Philada June 7. 1780

I recd. your favour of 29 Feby.¹ Would it not be convenient to count down as well as up distinguishing the former thus 18 $\overline{6}$ and the latter 16 $\overline{6}$.

I is still in LXIV.² I am afraid {Charles Town is gone}.³ There is a great {change in Congress} since you left us. {Matlack} is in for {Pennsylvania}. {Rhode Island} has made a total change except {Collins}. We are waiting with anxious expectation for {arrival of fleet} & {army} from {France}. There has been an engagement in the West indies between the two fleets, but the particulars are not yet come to hand. I shall do my self the honor of writing more fully soon, in the mean while with my most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Jay, I am, Sr., Your obedt humble Servt.

Chas Thomson

RC (Photocopy: *Joseph R. Sakmyster Catalog*, No. 5 [March 1985], p. 38).

¹ A copy of Jay's February 29 letter to Thomson, containing a list of 69 frequently used proper names to be included in cipher letters exchanged between the two men, is in the Jay Papers, NNC.

² Although Jay deciphered this letter in his own hand, interlining words above Thomson's numerals in the manuscript, the words he added above the roman numerals I and LXIV in this sentence are illegible. Unfortunately, the list of proper names contained in Jay's February 29 letter to Thomson does not fit the cipher used here by Thomson. In that list, for example, the name "Fitzhugh" corresponds to I, and "Arnold" to LXIV. Furthermore, the editors of Jay's papers advise us that none of the cipher lists known to them fit this letter. However, for a discussion of Jay's cipher correspondence, see Jay, *Papers* (Morris), p. 662.

³ Words printed in braces in this text were written by Thomson in cipher.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia, June 8. 1780

The various accounts we have from the Southward still leave it a matter of some doubt whether Charlestown is taken or not; tho' It is now generally beleived to have been safe on the 12th of May, & by many as late as the 18th.

A body of the Enemy from New York supposed to consist of 4,000 or, 5,000 marched into Jersey the 7th as far as Springfield—some

Skirmishing has ensured—whether their object is foraging or attempting the Camp at Morristown, or to make a shew of their force is yet uncertain.¹

Letters from Martinique, as late as the 13 of May, mention no further particulars of the engagement of the 17th of April than that the English fleet in a shattered condition put into St. Lucia, & that the french fleet with their Troops on board continued out; & it was hoped would be able to effect a descent on some of the English Islands.

A very large quantity of Military Stores & provisions are said to have arrived in the West Indies from France.

We do not yet hear of the arival of the fleet expected on this Coast.

More than 40 Sail of Merchantmen have arrived in the Delaware & Cheaspeak in the course of ten days. Prices & exchange are falling. There has been no depreciation of the currency here for about three months.

Your Excellency will doubtless receive from the President a resolution for advancing in Connecticut a sum of the monies of these United States,² when such there shall be not otherwise appropriated to the french Commissary Monsr. de Corny to be replaced in Specie on the arival of their fleet. It is indeed to be wished that the United States had mony at this time in Connecticut & other States, that could be advanced for such exchange, as evident & essential benefits might result therefrom. But at present it cannot be supposed that they have much money in bank any where. This the Minister was frankly informed of before the resolution passed that he might not be thereby disappointed, & that it was doubtful whether there would soon be any considerable mony in the Treasury or Loan office in Connecticut that Congress, would have right to draw for. It is earnestly his wish to do all in his power for establishing the credit of the paper currency—And I will take the liberty to suggest to your Excellency as I did to the Minister, that should the United States not have money on hand that they could so exchange, it might be of publick Utility could such exchanges be made with individual States or persons. He has received of this State £17,000 of their new bills pretty similar to those lately struck by Connecticut, to replace the same in specie when the fleet arives. It would be well if the Specie which the french may bring into the Country for supplies could with their approbation & convenience be placed in the publick Treasuries & their purchases made with the same currency as ours.

Two or three hundred thousand dollars of the new bills for Connecticut will be sent forward on Monday next. If the holders of the old bills should appear desirous or willing to exchange them for the new at their relative value, this might perhaps be effected, under proper restrictions thro' the hands of a public agent or agents who should receive & carry the old bills into the loan office to be de-

stroyed, & obtain credit therefor to the State as part of its quota to be brot in, & who could receive the 6/10 on behalf of the State out of which he could pay over 5/10 or at the rate of 1 for 40 to the proprietors of the bills received in retaining 1/10 for the State. This thought I have taken the Liberty to suggest to the consideration of your Excellency, conceiving it to be immaterial to the United States, what methods, consistant with good faith, any State shall take to expedite the gathering & bringing in its quota to be destroyed. To what lengths it may be expedient for the State to lay open its funds—so that persons possessed of money in other States who should give the preference to Connecticut funds might come in & take the benefit of them to the eventual exclusion of some of its own citizens as the case may be, your Excellency will be most competent to determine.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedt. humbe. Servt.

Oliv. Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ For this enemy incursion into New Jersey, see Cyrus Griffin to Thomas Jefferson, June 9, 1780, note 1.

² See Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, June 10, 1780.

George Walton to Adam Brisbane

Dear Sir,¹

Philadelphia, 8 June, 1780.

I wrote to you from Wilmington,² and have been hopeful to have heard from you in return. I arrived here about the 10 of May,³ and Mrs Walton and Nancy are now recovered of the small pox; the former, on account of her having been exposed to Salt provisions, had a good many, but Nancy had scarce any. We are tranquilly, peaceably and comfortably situated; and God knows we stood in great need of each.

We have had no official account of the fate of Charles Town, but all believe it lost. You remember that we all thought it would be the case at the High Hills. I fear all Carolina will fall with that Town, and that you will be necessitated to move again, which must injure you much, as well as add to your cares and anxieties. The fleet & army which are daily expected from France, may relieve us to the southward: tho I am rather of opinion the first operations will be against New York.

We desire our love to Polly & the boy. Nancy sends him a kiss.

Dear Sir, Your afft. frd.

Geo Walton.

RC (PRO: Cornwallis Papers, P.R.O. 30/11/2).

¹ Adam Fowler Brisbane had been a member of the Georgia council and was disqualified in July 1780 from holding office under the restored British government.

Revolutionary Records of the State of Georgia, ed. by Allen D. Candler, 3 vols. (Atlanta: Franklin-Turner Co., 1908), 1:348-63.

² Brisbane may also have been the recipient of the letter from Walton to an unidentified Georgia correspondent written from Wilmington, N. C. on April 4, when Walton was preparing to leave "tomorrow for Virginia; and thence to Congress," which is in the James S. Copley Library, La Jolla, Calif.

³ Walton first attended Congress on May 15, 1780, presenting the credentials of the Georgia delegation, which included William Few and Edward Telfair. *JCC*, 17:426-27. This was the first time that Georgia had been represented in Congress for more than a year, for which see these *Letters*, 12:297-98.

Cyrus Griffin to Thomas Jefferson

Sir (public) Philadelphia June 9th[1780.]

I have the mortification to inform you that the Enemy are parading the Jerseys in great force, at least with six thousand Infantry and the General says with a large body of horse also.¹ In consequence of this movement the Commander in chief requests that major Lee may be ordered to the main army, and I suppose this morning Congress will prevent his proceeding to the southward.²

A Committee of Congress who have been many weeks at head quarters with very extensive powers, in concurrence with G. Washington and the marquis de La Fayette, think proper to call upon the different states for a considerable quantity of specific supplies in addition to a former resolution of Congress, and also for 22,000 militia immediately to join the northern army—but whether Congress will send forth the requisitions to the state of Virginia I cannot determine³—as the neighboring states will demand your utmost exertions.

I suppose the great plan of finance is already happily executed; indeed the resolutions of Congress should be complied with, as a General scheme—for without unanimity upon these important points our confederation will break to pieces. What ever may have been the opinions of some states in Congress, a large majority of that body ought to be regarded especially in critical times like the present.

Congress have no objection that I should sit in the Court of appeals, notwithstanding my resignation be not accepted—but my attendance must be dispensed with whilst acting in that commission. It is probable I shall not act in that Commission long.⁴

There has been skirmishing in the Jerseys. The militia behaved well, as yet no great mischief. The army are moving towards the enemy. I have the honor to be &c. C. Griffin

[P.S.] Two papers enclosed⁵ for your perusal.⁶

¹ For Washington's June 10 report on the British incursion, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:493-94; and PCC, item 152, 8:591-92.

² For the disposition of Maj. Henry Lee's corps, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, June 6, note.

³ See Committee of Headquarters to the States, June 2 and to Samuel Huntington, June 5, 1780.

⁴ For Griffin's appointment to the Court of Appeals, see Huntington to Griffin, May 1, note 1. He continued to "act in that commission" until the court was dissolved in 1787.

⁵ Not found.

⁶ For the continuation of this letter, see Griffin to Jefferson, June 13.

Samuel Holten to John Avery

My worthy friend.

Phila. June 9th 1780. A.M.

Various are the accounts here respecting Charlestown, before yesterday I beleive most of the people tho't it surrendered on the 12th ultimo, but by several letters that came to hand by the southern Post, I think it appears most likely that it was not taken at the time above mentioned. The honl. Mr Chase of Maryland writes to the Secy. of Congress that he may be assured it was not taken the 18th of May.

I am, my dear Sir, your most obedient,

FC (MHi: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

Robert R. Livingston to Samuel Meredith

Dear Sir¹

Philadelphia 9th June 1780

I know not whether you have yet so far compleated your plans of rural happiness as to be unwilling to hear from this scene of noise & folly. But presuming that you are not yet intirely weaned from the things of this world, or unsoli[ci]tous about the great events of a war in which the most contemplative Philosopher may find something interesting, I cannot but wish to make you partake in the pleasure I feel on having at length recd. one contradictory account from the souther'd after so many confirming the loss of Charlestown. The Baltimore paper of the 6th says on the authority of a delegate just arrived, that it was in our hands on the 18th. Mr. Chase in a private letter possitively asserts the same thing. This indeed like the accounts of its surrender stand upon report, but while the one is weakened by, the other derives force from the want of more authentick information.

And now Sir give me leave to assure you that as retirement does not render you indifferent to what passes here, so neither does the bustle of towns make us forgetful of those we esteem in the country,

And perhaps a philosopher would be more justifiable in being solicitous about the welfare of a friend, than the fall of empires, since the last only fall to rise again under another name while the injuries sustained by the first may be irreparable. You will repay the intelligence I have given you by assuring me that my friends at Trentown are well, & that (which I am particularly anxious about) Mrs. Meredith, & my little favorite, are recovered from the indisposition of which they complained when I left you. Tell Betsy that her wicked wish about parties of pleasure (at least so far as it respects me) will be fully gratified. You will present my comps. to the ladies, & tell them that my best pray'r is that they may find the country as agreeable as their absence has rendered the town otherwise.

I am Dr. Sir, with great esteem, Your Most Obt Hum. Sert.

Robt R Livingston

RC (NN: Samuel Meredith Papers).

¹ Samuel Meredith (1741-1817). a Philadelphia merchant then living in Trenton, and former brigadier general of Pennsylvania militia, was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly, 1778-79, 1781-83, and later attended Congress, 1786-88. *DAB*.

Robert R. Livingston to Philip Schuyler

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 9th June 1780

Every objection that you make to the Limitation of the powers of the commissioners was foreseen before I left head quarters & I mentioned them to you. I knew from past experience the real or affected delicacy of some gentlemen upon that point & the facility with which people are won over to an opinion that flatters their pride. However I have no doubt that upon this great occasion every State will make spirited exertions. The Gent. of this place have agreed to receive the new State money as specie and have set on foot a subscription for filling up the Pensilvania line. The Minister has made a loan of the new Money if it can be got ready to be repaid in specie when the fleet arrives so that I have some hopes that we shall have it in our power to pay our troops a proportion of specie equivalent to what the french troops receive while they act together. If this can be accomplished so far as relates to the privates it may prevent jealousies between them and the forces of our ally. As to the limitation of the generals power of cooperation I consider it as a thing of no consequence except as it may remove the blind behind which it would have been proper to mask our designs.¹ Since it appears to be the general sentiment of Congress that war could not be carried on without the limmits of these States unless by their express direction. Nor indeed do I conceive it possible with our present force while the enemy retain their army in this quarter to transport any of ours into Canada.

The fate of Charles town yet remains a secret every day however seems in some measure to falsify Rivingtons story. We yesterday recd. a Letter from Chase who asserts roundly that all was safe there on the 18th. The Baltimore paper of the 6th affirms the same thing so that without being very sanguine we may hope that the Maryland line & the News from France may raise the siege. You give me no answer to what I write about the grants nor has Mr. Peabody answered my letter to him,² remind him of it. I am interrupted, Your Most Aff. Hum. Servt.

R R Livingston

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers). Endorsed: "favd. by Majr. Genl. Arnold."

¹ For a discussion of the "limitations of the generals power of cooperation," see Schuyler to Livingston, May 30, 1780, note 4.

² Not found.

John Mathews to Thomas Bee

My Dear Bee,

Morris Town June 9th. 1780.

I was made extremely happy by the receipt of your letter¹ the last evening announcing your long expected arrival at Philadelphia, but exceedingly regret my being so situated, as not to be able to promise my self any short day, when, to embrace my much valued friend, yet should a small relaxation of business, admit of it, before the Army moves from hence, neither the distance, nor the season will prevent my taking a run down, to ask you how you do, & to pay my respects to Mrs. Bee.

I am glad to find you approve of what I did respecting the house. Expence is a thing totally out of the question now, respecting a Philadelphia Situation, but this I believe you have been already pretty thoroughly convinced of before you got there. Mr. Williams did mention to me something about advancing the rent but I stopt him short, & told him, he must not expect it, as I was certain your expences on the road must have exhausted your funds, & money was not to be had out of the Continental Treasury, but you will find those people, (I mean of his class) as grinding as ever Jews were.

Could I conceive myself any ways useful in Congress at this time, towards promoting the welfare of my own Country, nothing could induce me to be absent. But if Chs. Town falls, it must be by our exertions *here* in the course of this Campaign, that we can promise ourselves the most distant hopes of regaining it during the war. And I should feel the utmost anxiety were it to be in the hands of the enemy, at the commencement of a treaty of peace. I have much to say to you on this subject, which would not be prudent to commit to paper. And it will keep very well 'till that period arrives, if I should not see you sooner. Probably the conclusion of this campaign, will

introduce this subject. I say, under these circumstances, I think I can render more essential services here, in promoting vigour, & activity, in the states to draw forth their resources, in such manner, as to put it in our power to act with efficacy, in our intended Offensive operations, if this opportunity is lost, we cannot reasonably expect, nor should we deserve another. You will find in our circular letters to the States, (Copies of which have been transmitted to Congress) a full State of our affairs, Such as we have done. I would recommend them to your perusal, tho' they are lengthy, they will be worth your serious attention, & afford you much information. If the States exert them selves as they ought, the Campaign will most probably end happily if they do not, the reverse, perhaps fatally.

I cannot as yet believe Chs. Town is lost, at least not on the twelfth of May, or you certainly would have received intelligence of it many days ago properly authenticated. If it has fallen, or does fall, I fear the whole Country goes with it, for having nothing but a few discontented fluctuating militia to depend on, we shall never be in any condition to check the ravages of a merciless enemy, & I imagine our people have not fortitude enough to see their properties destroyed, when their submissions can be the means of saving it. I suppose they will have as little respect for us, as for any two Gentlemen whatever. For my own part I shall look on myself (whenever this event happens) as not worth a groat, unless we can retake the country or have it restored by treaty, then the land must remain but nothing else. As to becoming a British subject again, if a restoration of my Estate is to depend on those terms, why let them keep it, & the Devil keep them with it.

You will 'ere this have heard of the manuvre of the enemy the sixth inst. I went down with The General, & remained there the whole day, there was a good deal of skirmishing between our Militia & a few Continental troops, & the enemy, they were very closely engaged for about half an hour, and our Militia behaved extremely well indeed, there was much skirmishing likewise yesterday on their retreat, some few prisoners, (of the enemy) have been taken, but by all accounts the Militia have suffered severely, I have no doubt of it, for they fought bravely. The enemy are still at Elizabeth town. Their retreat with some other circumstances, may at first blush, appear rather pleasing, but on my mind it has a very different effect. They have answered the purposes for which they came out, in all respects but one. It appears to me, their first object was to try the force of our Army they lay the whole day of Wednesday within view of us, burning, & destroying every thing that came in their way, & used every provocation, to induce us to fight them, we did not, therefore they are convinced we could not, consequently, the moment Clinton arrives, (which must now be hourly look'd for, whether he takes Chs. Town, or not) he will instantly make a dead push at this army, &

either oblige us to fight him, or drive us over the Delaware with the loss of all the stores here. West point must of course then fall. A pretty situation we should then be in to be sure. This can only be prevented by this Army's being instantly reinforced. The point they failed in, was giving an opportunity to our troops to desert, which they did not. From the accounts they have received of the discontent prevailing in our army, they had great expectations of drawing over to them a considerable number of our men—however they were disappointed. I think it would not be amiss to shew this paragraph to some members of Congress, or if you like, may read it in Congress. As I believe it to be a true State of the case & I believe the genl. has not time to write. I am my Dear Bee yours most Affectly,

Jno. Mathews

RC (ScC: Bee Papers).

¹ Not found.

Abraham Clark to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. June 10th. 1780.

By a Law of this State lately passed, the Wives and Children of all such as have joined the Enemy are to depart this State in a Short Time. They are accordingly preparing for their departure, and I am informed they intend to remove into Jersey where they say our Laws will give them Security and a Safe refuge. As I do not recollect any Law in Jersey which prevents persons of that Character from residing among us and by which they are removeable, I think it necessary to inform your Excellency of their intention that the Legislature may if they think proper take measures for preventing our States becoming a receptical for the banished of other States.

I have the honour to be with due respects, your Excellencys Obedt. & Humble Servt.

Abra. Clark

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 10–11, 1780]

10. Saturday. We have another acct. that Charlestown surrendered the 11th of May.

11. Sabbathday. I attended public worship at Dr. Duffields. It is said the french vessels are arrived here.

MS (MDaAr).

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 10 June 1780

When I came into Congress this Morning I found lying on the Table a Pile of Papers of which I do myself the Honour to inclose you one. While your attention is taken up with War and Arms, this may not come in altogether a-propos, though not entirely without some relation to such Subjects. Our State will be interested in Point of Reputation of the Ladies,¹ and Mrs. Livingston perhaps particularly. The Matter is really proceeding here; and the Gentlemen are not behind in a Subscription to recruit Soldiers for filling up the Pennsylvania Line, which already amounts to fourteen Hundred Pounds in Specie.

We are in the utmost Anxiety about News from New-Jersey, nothing decisive and authentick having come to Hand as yet.

I am, your Excellency's very hble Servt.

William Ch Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ For the formation of ladies' associations to promote the war effort at this time, see John Walker to Thomas Jefferson, June 13, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to John Bailey

Sir,

Philada June 10. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 30th of May last herewith enclosed you will be informed, that from a Consideration of all Circumstances, they do not judge it expedient at present to appoint another Brigadier from the Line of the Troops of Massachusetts Bay.¹

I am &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Col. John Bailey, commander of the 4th Massachusetts Brigade, had written to Washington in April for permission to resign, citing personal circumstances and ill health, but had been referred by the general to Congress. When Bailey wrote to Congress on May 12, however, he shifted ground somewhat, pointing out that he had been passed over for promotion several times, and requesting either a promotion or leave to resign. The Board of War, to which his letter was referred, simply concluded that since all the Massachusetts brigades were understrength and the state already had two major generals and three brigadiers, it was not "expedient" to appoint another Massachusetts brigadier. Ignoring the alternatives that Bailey had attempted to pose, Congress merely adopted the language of the board's recommendation and left the next step to the colonel. He resigned in October. See *JCC*, 17:436, 472-73; *PCC*, item 78, 3:465-68; Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:316, and Heitman, *Historical Register*, pp. 33, 71. Bailey's original letter to Washington, dated only "West Point Apl. 1780," is in the Washington Papers, DLC.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Chittenden

Sir, Philada June 10. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 2d Instant, containing sundry resolutions respecting the People inhabiting the New Hampshire Grants (so called) and also another Act of Congress of the 9th Instant assigning the second Tuesday of September next to proceed to the Hearing of the Disputes upon that Subject as expressed in the Act last mentioned.¹

It is expected that due Notice will be taken of these Acts by all Persons & Parties concerned in conforming themselves thereto.

I am Sir &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ For these resolves and their transmission to the other parties to the New Hampshire Grants disputes—Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York—see Huntington to Certain States, June 6, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, Philadelphia June 10. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 8th Instant herewith enclosed your Excellency is authorized to receive on Account of the United States out of the Monies raised by Connecticut, more than sufficient to discharge the Draughts heretofore made by Congress, & to comply with the requisition of the 20th of May last, or out of the Bills that shall be completed and lodged in the Continental Loan Office in Connecticut for the use of the United States, pursuant to a resolution of Congress of the 18th of March last one Million & two hundred thousand Dollars of the Bills now in Circulation, or thirty thousand Dollars of the Bills last-mentioned, or a Proportion of each, on the Application of Monsr de Corny Commissary of the Troops in the service of his most Christian Majesty, and advance the same to him taking his receipt to replace the same in Specie in the Treasury of the United States, when required by Congress, and transmit the receipt to the Treasury Board as soon as possible.¹

I have the honour to be, with every Sentiment of respect, your
Excelly's hbble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:496-97. This June 8 resolve was adopted upon the recommendation of a committee appointed to confer with the French minister, La Luzerne, on preparations required for provisioning anticipated reinforcements from France. For Congress' response to La Luzerne's May 16 announcement of the French decision to send troops to America for the 1780 campaign, see Huntington to Certain States, June 5, 1780.

Huntington also sent copies of this resolve this day to La Luzerne and to Ethis de Corny, the French commissary of war who was working to stockpile provisions for the French forces enroute to America. PCC, item 15, fols. 21-23.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, *Private* Philadelphia June 10. 1780

Your Excellency will receive my Letter of this Date covering an Act of Congress of the 8th Instant authorizing you to advance 1,200,000 Dollars of the Continental Bills now in Circulation, or 30000 Dollars of the new Bills emitted pursuant to the Act of Congress of the 18th of March last, to Colo Corny the French Commissary, and take his receipt to pay the same in Specie.

This Measure is adopted in Consequence of a Proposal from the Minister of France, who seems desirous to aid & support our Paper Currency, and better gain Assurances that the Specie shall be duly paid. Although no rate of Exchange is mentioned yet I presume the Intention is, to receive the new Bills at Par with Specie, or the Bills now in Circulation at forty for one.

I am in Doubt whether the Monies are, or can be soon collected in Connecticut, sufficient to enable your Excellency to comply with this Application; should that be the Case, rather than the Minister should be disappointed, and his generous Proposal fail of Effect, I beg leave to suggest whether some Mode cannot be devised, for the Government of Connecticut to raise the Money on their own Account; or Individuals to advance it, & by such means to obtain the Advantage of the Specie.

A Number of the new Bills are struck, and the first Parcel will be sent to Connecticut, and probably reach Hartford before this comes to hand. Treasurer Lawrence & his Son Rodrick are appointed, either of them to endorse the new Bills on the Part of the United States. A Copy of their Appointment is herewith enclosed.¹

Although we have no official Intelligence of the Surrender of Charlestown, yet I am sorry to inform you that from various Accounts it seems to be placed beyond a Doubt the Garrison capitulated the 12th Ultio, and were made Prisoners of War. With very great respect & Esteem, I have the honour to be your Excy's hbble servt,

Sam. Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For this June 8 resolve appointing John and Roderick Lawrence endorsers of the new Continental bills "that shall be emitted by the State of Connecticut, pursuant to the resolution of Congress of the 18th of March," see JCC, 17:497. Huntington also sent this resolve this day with a brief letter to the Lawrences containing the following additional instruction. "You will please to observe that two Gentlemen are appointed to this Service, only as a Precaution that the Service may not be delayed thro' the

mobility of one by reason of Sickness, or any other contingent Misfortune &c; yet the same Bills are to be endorsed by only one Person on the Part of the United States, and it may be best for one to endorse the whole, if it can be conveniently performed in that Manner." PCC, item 15, fols. 24-25.

Joseph Jones to James Hunter

Dr. Sr.

10th June 1780

I have this day given Mr. Jennifer¹ who is going to Annapolis the date and amount of the Certificate you lately ment[ione]d that he may inquire into its authenticity.

I have taken the liberty to desire Col. Finnie to leave with you for Mrs. Jones a small bundle wch. be pleased to send her by the first safe opportunity. I Inclose you a paper of the day and a scheme for the perusal of the Ladies it is encouraged here [. . .]² and indeed I am pleased to find the citizens in general roused upon the present occasion to a degree of animation much beyond any thing heretofore discovered and I trust the flame will spread wide and catch the people of our State. The Enemy are out of New York we hear in Force in the Jerseys. Some Skirmishing had taken place between them and Genl. Maxwell with some Regulars & Militia of that State with inconsiderable loss on either side. The Comr. in Chief had drawn within three Miles of them and if they do not retire it is probable an action will ensue. With respect to yr. Lady I am, yr. affe hum. sert,

Jos. Jones

RC (ViU: Hunter-Garnett Papers).

¹ Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, who had presented his credentials on June 2 but apparently returned home this day. See *JCC*, 17:481. For Maryland's lack of representation in Congress at this time, see Jenifer to Thomas Sim Lee, June 5, note 3.

² Approximately three words missing.

Philip Schuyler to Ezra L'Hommedieu

Dear Sir

Morris town Saturday morning, June 10th 1780

I have many thanks to render you for your favor of the 7th Instant¹ which Colo. Hay was so good as to deliver me at nine last night. It affords me a very sensible satisfaction to be advised that our legislature has so unanimously adopted the recommendation of Congress on the subject of Finance not only because our sentiments are thereby approved, but because It evinces a disposition to Co-operate Effectually with Congress than which nothing is more Chagrining to the disaffected. I am persuaded the funds Established for the redemption

of the bills will be Competent, If prudence takes the lead in disposing of the Confiscated property and Oeconomy In the Expenditures.

You request my thoughts on a Supply bill. I have not been in bed for three nights past and on horseback much the greatest portion of time since Wednesday morning, hence I feel myself very little in Condition to Arrange my thoughts with propriety on Any Subject. I will however commit myself to your discretion In confidence that your friendship will make every allowance.

Beef or pork, flour, hay, and short forrage were allotted to our state as their quota of supplies; of some, or all of these, I suppose considerable quantities have been collected by the Continental offices since the 1st of December last. The deficiencies must be made up *at least*. To do this I would advise in your act to recite that Quota assigned to you, to observe that part hath already been furnished, and that you now mean to provide, not only for making up the defi[ci]ency, but Also to procure additional supplies for every department of the Army, If they should be required.

Perhaps It would be proper at this Conjuncture when exertion is so much wanted and when objects of such vast magnitude display themselves, to authorize the Governor to appoint agents, to Collect, purchase, or even If necessary to Impress the supplies which may be wanted, but as you may not have money to furnish the agents with, they should be directed to give Certificates for what they receive payable at one or more pay offices to be Established by the state, and the day of payment fixed to a Certain time after the date of the Certificates. In paying these no regard ought to be had to the prices fixed by Congress. The Currant price should be given whether It be more or less than that, for if the real price of the Commodity (no matter from what cause) was higher than that which the state can charge In Account with the United States, It would be evidently unjust to Confine the Individual to the fixed price, as he would then bear more than his proportion of the public burthen. On the Contrary If the Currant price should be less than the fixed one, the state ought to have the advantage. Otherwise the Sellar would bear less of the public burthen than his proportion. This Method I think should be pursued until the whole of the allotted articles are furnished—and In order to Determine with competent precision when that is, certificates should as early as possible be procured of all Supplies furnished Since the first day of December last, the Quarter Masters & Commissarys to furnish these certificates. Indeed it is Essential to the Interest of the state that these should be obtained, as will Evidently appear by having recourse to the act of Congress of the 25th February last.² Whatsoever additional articles like those enumerated In said Act, or whatever others may be wanted, should be procured by the same Agents, and In the same Manner together with the transportation, but the certificates on the pay offices should

In this case Specify the Sum as agreed for by the agents whether It be more or less than the price fixed by Congress, and should be paid upon the Certificates because the whole must be repaid the state, which In this case is only to be Considered as lending Its Credit or Its money to the united States, the latter to be reimbursed either out of Its proportion of taxes, or If those do not Amount to the whole Credit which the State has pledged, then out of the Continental treasury. It may be asked what agents ought to be Employed, I should advise the Quarter Master & Commissary. These officers must Exist. They will be on Established pay, and being under the direction of the Governor so far as the state may make provision for Supplies and transportation they will be no Expence to the State. Other agents will be a heavy one, Imbarassments will take place, requisitions will be made by the Continental Officers. If the State officers fail to comply, or complying do not furnish the articles of the very best quality, complaints and disputes will Ensue. Besides what is It more than a Change of names, the state agents will have all the duty of Quarter Masters & Commissaries to do, & It is probable they will not understand the business so well. It is possible they may not be such good men. It is certain that they will not so well know where the resources of the Country lay.

If the Country was well supplied with wheat and flour, and If every person who must bear a share of the public burthen could furnish this article, It might be well to Quota It out on the Several Counties, but that neither is, or ever can be the case. You must then give an Alternative to pay the assessment in kind, or in Cash, but on this Alternative people will speculate. If cash is better than wheat they will pay In the latter. If cash is worse than wheat they will pay in Cash, and then you are Still driven to purchase. If you give no Alternative and say If they have no wheat they must purchase It, then you make an hundred purchasers instead of one, and you risk advancing the price, and depreciating the new Money, and probably draw on a heavy expence In transportation from remote places. I believe the best way is to purchase without any kind of Assessment, with money, If you have It, with Credit If you have not money.

I fear, like you, that the disaffected and those who wish the old money realized in their hands by taxes on the people, will attempt to discredit the new Money, but serve them as they would Serve us, Let the agents whether they be Quarter Masters or Commissaries seize as much as possible in what Supplies these dark characters may have, then they will become Interested In supporting the Credit of the new money.

By the act of the 18th March, If fourty dollars be brought to the treasury whether by taxes, or voluntary for the purpose of exchange, one is emitted In Exchange, and one to Strengthen the treasury. If then you could Induce the people to bring in the old to Exchange

for the New, the treasury would be Strengthened by one dollar in Value equivalent to every forty brought in, and the Credit Established by the Exchange, would not subscriptions for the purpose have a good Effect? Or Would It be too bold a stroke to Call In the Old by act of the legislature, and give in Exchange the new? We have compleated a System for the Quarter Master department, not the best, but I believe as good a one as the times will admit of. This business ought to have been done in November, then a compleat reform might have been made, but had we [lopped off?] of every exuberance at this Critical moment all had been confusion. We were therefore under the necessity of temporizing. The outlines are three Great divisions, the first N. York Inclusive East, and the second thence west to Maryland Inclusive, and the third the remainder of the States. In Each division a Superintendant—one Deputy QM General In Each State to be approved of by the Executive authority of the State If necessary—with a competent number of assistants—No Forage Masters. I believe Colo. Hay will be the Deputy In our State, and Mr. Cuyler the Superintendant In the Commissary Branch.

In the night between Tuesday and Wednesday the Enemy landed at Elizabeth town point with between four & five thousand men and Immediately pushed forward, pointing to this place. Maxwells brigade supported by the Militia who turned out with alertness and behaved with Spirit, made what opposition they could at every post which promised fair to retard the Enemy. By Eleven the enemy had advanced to the Connecticut farms, about nine Miles on this Elizabeth town point, here a Sharp Contest ensued, the Enemy to gain a passage over the bridge near Springfield, ours to prevent them, the former retired to their main body with Some loss, ours kept the Ground; the troops from hence were put In Motion and Arrived about four on the heights between this and Springfield, from that time until dark was Spent In reconnoitring each other and on their part In burning houses; about Eleven at night they retired to Elizabeth town. Maxwell and the Militia followed In the Morning. At one in the afternoon on Thursday Our main body began to move forward to the heights the Enemy had left, there to remain until their Strength, position & Intentions could be ascertained; We reconnoitred them from Halsteads point which afforded us a good view. Judged their number as has been Mentioned, which was too heavy for us to venture an Attack. On Friday very Early they were reinforced by about three hundred horse and some foot. As our force Including militia was still Inferior we retired to our first position above Springfield. Some Intelligence having been received that they should Attempt the destruction of our stores by turning our flanks with their light horse, the General requested me to repair here, and make a disposition of the troops. Nothing has happened. It is now ten oClock, not a word from the army, whence I conclude that the

Enemy are still at Elizabeth town. If they were not well Informed of our weakness they would not remain where they are. If the General had three thousand men more they must be ruined, but his numbers without such a reinforcement are Incompetent. I dare not tell you our Strength or rather our weakness.

I have this moment received a line from Mr. Duane,³ Inclosing a paper he sent me⁴ which I have transmitted to the legislature thru Mr. Benson.

I have urged much to pay a visit to the legislature but neither the General nor the Committe will Consent that I shall leave this.

Pray make my Compliments to all friends. I am Dear Sir, with Sincere Esteem Your friend & very Hum Servt,

Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] I find the Enemy were made to believe that If they came out in force, our army would not fight, the Country would submit, and that they would possess themselves of all our stores. They were surprised to find the Militia so firm—some were heard to Say the Americans fight like bull dogs. Every general officer in N. York was out, the Titular Governor came out In his Coach followed by fifty or sixty of the most Capital toadeaters in the town.

If the legislature should not approve of making the *Quarter Master* an Agent under an apprehension that an Improper person might be appointed to that office, If they have no objection to Colo Hay they might appoint him by name, altho I think It may be attended with Inconvenience If sickness or death Should deprive us of his services.

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980). Addressed: "To the Honorable Ezra Lhommedieu Esqr., Kingston."

¹ See Schuyler to L'Hommedieu, May 20, 1780, note 1.

² See Huntington to the States, February 26, 1780.

³ See James Duane to Schuyler, June 6, 1780.

⁴ Enclosure not identified.

Committee at Headquarters to Elbridge Gerry

Sir, In Committee of Congress, Morris Town, 11th June 1780.

As you are on your journey to the state of Massachusetts Bay—We embrace the opportunity and intreat you to give such information to the Executive powers of the Eastern States, respecting the distressed situation of the Army, as you, from your own observations, and our communications, are enabled to afford. We are happy, Sir, to find your sentiments coincident with our own, on the necessity there is at this important and alarming conjuncture, of the most strenuous exertions of the states. You have been an Eye witness to

the distress of the Country, and the danger to which this Army was exposed, in that critical moment when the enemy in superior force pointed their operations against it, much too weak to face them in the field with any prospect of effectual resistance, altho led by the bravest and best of men. You have seen our heavy Cannon and stores exposed to the most imminent danger because the means of removing them to places of security were not in our power, and had the Enemy pursued their object, it is more than probable the whole would have been lost; hence it is evident that not a moment ought to be lost in sending on the reinforcements which have been required. Indeed, Sir, the states are exposed to a most dreadful calamity from the reduced condition of the Army, and more especially so, as the british troops from Carolina are daily expected here.

The plan you have proposed for an immediate supply of money appears to us the most eligible of any yet suggested,¹ we think the most salutary consequences would result to the community if it was adopted.

Your attention to the Welfare of your Country will we are persuaded, induce in you in every exertion and your Character and abilities, with these exertions will render eminent service in this day of distress.²

We are, with respect and esteem, Sir, Your Most humble Servts.

P. Schuyler

J. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ This is probably a reference to Gerry's proposal for "an immediate Association of the Merchants thro'out the united States to support the late Plan of Congress relative to Finance," which he outlined in the following entry.

² Gerry, according to Samuel Holten's diary, had left Philadelphia for Massachusetts on June 3. Stopping at headquarters to exchange information, he agreed to undertake this mission on behalf of the committee.

This day the committee also sent the following letter to the executives of the four eastern states: "Since we had the honor to address you on the 2d instant, the enemy have come out in force, and pointed their operations to this army. The Honorable Mr. Gerry has been so obliging, at our request, as to promise to call on you, to give you the particulars, and as he is well advised of the situation of affairs in this quarter, from his own observations, as well as from information, he can afford you the most ample detail on this subject." PCC, item 11, fol. 65, DNA.

See also Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare, this date.

Elbridge Gerry to Robert Morris

My dear sir,

Morristown 11th June 1780

The distressed Situation of the Army, & the general State of pub-

lick Affairs, will, I trust, apologize for my addressing You at a Time when I have nothing very pleasing to offer. The present reduced State of the Army, & the Want of every Species of Supplies, together with the consequent Ravages & Insults of the Enemy, may be all traced to an exhausted Treasury, which must be immediately supplied, to enable our General to co'operate with the Forces that are daily expected from our good Ally. Taxes, You well know, are too slow in their Operations to effect this, domestick & foreign Loans are at present inadequate & the only prospect that remains is from the vigorous Exertions of the Citizens of these united States. Your Zeal & Abilities in the Common Cause are well known to & acknowledged by all who have had the pleasure of your Acquaintance, & these supported by your extensive Influence, may I conceive at this critical Juncture, produce the most salutary Effect.

What I mean to propose is an immediate Association of the Merchants thro'out the united States to support the late Plan of Congress relative to Finance,¹ & to promote amongst the Inhabitants of their respective Counties, Cities & Towns, a speedy & vigorous Exertion to send into the respective loan offices, all the old continental Bills of Credit, & receive the Amount thereof in new Bills at the Exchange established by the Resolution of Congress. The Merchants of Philadelphia & Boston may I presume do more to accomplish this, than the Legislatures of their respective States, & by adopting the Measure may make it general thro'out the Continent. I am well aware of your Objections to that Plan & was so fully in Sentiment with You, that previous to the passing thereof, being consulted by some Members of Congress, I freely gave them my Opinion, that it was inconsistent with the publick Faith, & ought not to be adopted; but it is now an Act of Congress, is confirmed by several of the States, & is the only Measure by which We have any Prospect of immediate Supplies.

The Advantages that may result from an Exertion on this Occasion will appear by considering, that every Dollar so exchanged will furnish another for *reinforcing* & *Supplying* the Army; that the Treasury may then be *immediately* & *amply* supplied; & that the Army may be speedily reinforced & furnished with Necessaries to cooperate with the Forces of our Ally. Should this be accomplished, We shall have the happy prospect of bringing our Enemies to reasonable Terms, & the War to a speedy Conclusion; whilst the Confidence of our good Ally will be established; & other Powers be disposed to follow his Example, but on the other Hand if the powerful Succours which are daily expected from France should be compelled by our Inability or Indolence to return disgraced; will they not be so incensed, notwithstanding the good Will of their sovereign & his Minister towards Us, as to be ever after irreconcilable to Americans? Will not an Alliance with Spain, if not previously adopted, be prevented? Will not the other Powers in Europe be so convinced of our Want of

Resources, or Wisdom & Virtue to draw them forth, as to shun & condemn Us? Will not such as are friendly to G Britain be encouraged to afford her immediate Assistance? & will not the Cause of America be in the most imminent Danger, if not irretrievably lost?

It gives me great Pain to hold up so disagreeable a picture of our affairs, but my Duty to my Country obliges me to be explicit on this occasion, and I assure You sir, that I have not seen at any period, so fair a prospect by vigorous Exertions of establishing our Independence, or on the other Hand such dreadful Consequences as are to be apprehended from Supineness, or feeble Efforts. In carrying thro this Plan, You will undoubtedly have to oppose the weak & selfish Friends, as well as the secret & insidious Enemies of America, but I sincerely hope that You will see the Necessity of the Measure & at all Events support it.

The Committee of Congress at Camp are earnestly desirous of carrying this Plan into Effect, & would have addressed the Merchants on this Occasion, did they not conceive that such a proceeding would be considered as extra official by the Legislatures of some of the States; they have nevertheless expressly desired me to promote it in the eastern States, & his Excellency the General is also much in favour of it.

I cannot conclude without informing You, that after the Army had left ElizabethTown, I had the pleasure of seeing Governor Livingston's Family who have thus far happily escaped the Ravages of the Enemy; the particular of which you will undoubtedly receive from Miss Livingston. Pray give my best Respects to your Lady, & beleive me to be sir with every Sentiment of Esteem & Respect, Your most obedt & most hum sert.

E. Gerry

RC (MdBj-G).

¹ The fate of Gerry's "association of the Merchants" is cloudy, but for evidence that Morris worked to promote such an association in Philadelphia to provide supplies to the army, see Philip Schuyler to George Washington, June 18; and James Madison to Thomas Jefferson, June 23, 1780.

Robert R. Livingston to Ezra L'Hommedieu

Dear Sir

Philadelphia 11th June 1780¹

I recd. by Mr. Elting your favor as I suppose of the 29th May tho dated in March. You have I hope before this had my answer² to yours from Midletown.

It gives me great pleasure to find that our Legislature have been so unanimous in their adoption of the plan of finance recommended by congress which I am persuaded will make its way good in spite of all the opposition of a few interested persons. This state has

adopted it but with a suspending clause, a very extraordinary manœuvre & of a piece with the rest of their political conduct hitherto. Tho I am happy to be able to assure you that the spirit of Patriotism is again breaking out here, and that within a few days both the people & the Legislature seem to be reviving from their Torpor. They have great resources & we may hope for much from their exertion. Maryland has not yet adopted the plan owing to an unhappy difference between their Senate & Assembly about making it a tender. But upon cooling down they see they have broke upon a matter of no moment & at their present sessions will probably agree upon it. I am unhappy that it was not in my power to be with you this session as I had intended, I already begin to find the warmth of this place disagree as much with my constitution as its expence does with my fortune. Nothing but the earnest request of our friends, & a sense of duty would have kept me here. Our friend the Genl.³ has not been able with all his attention to regimen & diet to keep himself intirely free from his much dreaded enemy the Ague which has shaken him for some days past. However he escaped his fit yesterday by dint of a regular application of the bark.

I see your embarasments about the repeal of the tender law, it is a very delicate subject & I hardly know what to advise. It shd. however at first view seem to me that a man who hires money during the state of depreciation for which he pays an interest does not engage to secure it against depreciation, if he repays it at the end of the period for which it was borrowed. If he keeps it longer he takes the risk upon himself. Because whoever borrows money for a certain time, & pays an interest, is supposed to give the interest for the use during the whole time—And the Lender must be considered as the indorser of the publick bills of exchange for the time. But if the borrower keeps them beyond the proper time without applying to the indorser for repayment & the meanwhile the publick becomes bankrupt he takes the risk upon himself & shall have no remedy over against the endorser who shall receive from him the value of the bills at the time of the contracts terminating.

As to debts where no interest is paid, & the purchaser or borrower still keeps the money there is no doubt but that he takes upon himself the risk of the depreciation.⁴

We are still at a Loss about Charlestown's fate, tho' there is a man in town who affirms that he saw the British colours hoisted there the 12th & gives a particular account of its surrender, having been confined to a prison ship in the harbour at the time, & left it the 17th. Yet as we can not account for our receiving no authentick advise from there, or for their knowing nothing of this business at New York, we hardly can persuade ourselves to give credit to his story.

Since the departure of Mr. Peabody we have met with every obstruction from New Hampshire & having fortunately got nine states

together yesterday I pressed there proceeding to a hearing,⁵ but upon New Hampshire's representing that their Agent was absent, with all the papers, we were obliged to let the business go off till the second Wednesday in Sepr. & a new Notice is ordered to be given to the parties interested. I feel most exceedingly for the distress of our friends their and I have allways thought that some more efficacious & immediate relief should be given them than any that can come from this quarter.

Tell Mr. Hubbard that he owes me a very long letter & that in these times every man ex[pects] to have his paper debts paid in. Present my comps. to Mr. Courtland & Mr. R Yates. I am, Dear Sir, with great esteem, Your Most Obt Hum. Servt.

Robt R. Livingston

RC (Andrew Fiske, Shelter Island, N.Y., 1980).

¹ Livingston may have drafted this letter on June 10, because the congressional action on the New Hampshire Grants, which he reports as occurring "yesterday," took place on June 9.

² Not found.

³ That is, John Morin Scott, a former brigadier general.

⁴ Both public and personal finance were major topics of L'Hommedieu's letter to Livingston of June 17, in which he explained that the New York legislature had not yet approved new measures to provide for the delegates' expenses in Philadelphia because "of different opinions respecting the meaning of the word *Expences*." He also informed Livingston that Gov. George Clinton "thinks it would not be prudent" to seek tax relief for Livingston. As to public finance, he reported that he had collected "a considerable sum of hard Money" for the treasury, and that the state legislature disapproved his plan to "exchange their old Money for the new." Robert R. Livingston Papers, NHi.

⁵ Livingston and Scott made this unsuccessful effort to secure congressional action on the New Hampshire Grants on June 9. See *JCC*, 17:499; and Scott to L'Hommedieu, June 6, 1780, note 6.

Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare

Sir,

Morristown 11th June 1780.

The Army here has been in motion for several days [*since*] last post but it would be in vain for me to attempt Giving a narrative of their manœveres as you will probably have the particulars much Earlier by other Communications.

I have only at this time to recommend to your particular Notice the Honle. Elbridge Gerry Esq—A Gentleman of distinguished Honr., integrity & Abilities—whose long and unremitted exertion in the Cause of America—Zeal & attachmt to her Interest, has Justly intitled him to the most intire Esteem & Confidence of those Citizens who have had the Honr. of an acquaintance with him.

The Committee of Congress have therefore prevailed upon him

to Call on your State,¹ with others, Apprehending that his extensive knowledge in the affairs of America in General, And of the Circumstances of the Army in particular will fully enable him to give you Such demonstrative information as to impress the State with a true Sense of the Situation and, important Concerns of these United States, At this Critical And very Alarming Conjuncture of time, in a more Ample manner than it would be possible to do by *letter*— And I have no doubt but the most Early & Serious Attention will be paid to his representations.

I wish Sir that he may, upon this important ocasion, be received & entertaind with the most polite personal attention & accommodations provided as may make his Situation agreeable while there.

You will be so obliging as to introduce him to Such Gentlemen and families as you may Judge agreeable to his rank & Station in Life.

Every Mark of respect Shewn by my friends to this Gentleman will ever be gratefully acknowledged as An Honr done to him who has the Honr to be with the Greatest Esteem, Your Sincere friend, most obedt. And very Humble Servt,

Nathl Peabody

RC (MHi: Weare Papers).

¹ See Committee at Headquarters to Elbridge Gerry, this date.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir, In committee of Congress, Morristown, June 12th 1780
Your favor of the 6th instant covering acts of Congress of the ——— are duly received.¹

Should the enemy oblige our army to retire from its present position, it is not improbable that it must take post either beyond the Delaware, or in the highlands. If at the former, the enemy will undoubtedly attempt the reduction of the posts in the highlands. If at the latter, it will be reduced to the greatest distress for the article of flour, as in all probability supplies of that kind will be intercepted in their way to the Army. It is therefore of the first importance that an ample quantity should be without delay conveyed to New Windsor or kings ferry. The superior influence which Congress has beyond what the committee can be supposed to possess in the States from whence flour only can be obtained induces us to request that they will urge the necessity of hastening on whatever can be procured, and carriage for the transportation.

The Enemy we are informed have this Morning advanced from Elizabeth point, to the Capes. Our Army continues to occupy the heights west of Springfield.

We have the honor to inclose your Excellency copy of our circular letter to the States of the 2d instant, with copy of one we have this day dispatched, together with copies of the General letters referred to in those to the States.

We have the honor to be with perfect esteem and respect, Your Excellencys most obedient humble Servts, Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

P.S. Since inclosing the above, the commander in chief has advised us, that whenever the British now in this State shall be reinforced by the troops from Carolina, which he momentarily expects to be advised of, he will in all probability be obliged to retire beyond the Delaware, and leave the fortresses in the highlands of New York to be defended as well as they may be by the present weak and inadequate garrison, as he has no prospect of supplying an additional number of troops at that post, for the want of flour.

In the utmost distress to be reduced to this sad alternative, he has entreated us to apply to the State of Pensylvania on the subject, we have accordingly addressed ourselves to Governor Reed, and also begged the favor of him to transmit copy of our letter to the Governors of Delaware and Maryland.² Permit us Sir, to request the intervention of Congress by seconding our application.³

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews, Peabody, and Schuyler. Endorsed: "Letter from the Comee at headQuarters, June 12, 1780. Read 14. Referred to Mr Ellsworth, Mr Livingston, Mr Matlack, with W. Y. X. Supplies requested. 1. Circular letter to States, June 2; 2. Supplies requested, June 2; 3. Circular to states, June 12; 4. Genl. W. To Comee June 11; 5. do. to do., June 12."

¹ See Huntington's second June 6 letter to the committee.

² See the following entry.

³ The letter was referred on June 14 to a committee whose report the following day led to an order "that a circular letter be written to each of the United States from New Hampshire to Maryland, inclusive, enforcing the circular letters from the committee at headquarters." See Samuel Huntington to the States, June 15, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Joseph Reed

Sir
In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 12, 1780

It is with great satisfaction that we learn the legislature of your State has invested your Excellency with ample powers to draw forth every resource of the state at this interesting conjuncture.

Since our letter of this date,¹ The Commander in Chief has advised us, that in the present situation of our affairs should the British force

return from Carolina (which event must be hourly looked for) he cannot think of risking his army at the post at West Point. The inevitable consequence of which must be the sacrifice of that small remains of an army now become inadequate to any effectual resistance even against the present British force in this quarter, as there is not flour at that post even for the garrison now there. Under these circumstances he must be under the necessity of abandoning that important post to shift for itself, in the best manner they can, & he can have no alternative, but to affect his retreat across the Delaware.

On a serious consideration of this distressed State of the Army, you must pardon our importunity Sir, when we call on you in the most urgent manner & conjure you as you value the welfare of the United States of America, to use your most strenuous endeavours to procure without one moments loss of time, at least Ten Thousand Barrels of flour, and cause the same to be transported to Kings ferry or New Windsor. It is on your State alone in the present exigency of our affairs that we must rely for support in this article. Your knowledge of the importance of that post, need no comments on our part, how indispensably necessary it is that it should be preserved not only as a safe retreat for our Army should they be so circumstanced, as to make it necessary, but also to keep open the communication between these and the eastern states & for the preservation of this already too much distressed state. Should our present application not be attended with the desired affect, The consequences must in all human probability be fatal.

We have the honor to be with respect Your Most Obt. Servt.

P Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

RC (NHi; Reed Papers).

¹ That is, the following entry.

Committee at Headquarters to the States

Sir, Circular No. 4. In committee of Congress,
Morristown, June 12, 1780.

We have the honor to inclose you copy of a letter addressed to us by the commander in chief.¹ The contents will advise you to what an alarming crisis our affairs are reduced. The General observes with great propriety, that this committee "need no arguments to evince the danger." Indeed we do not: our own observations have led to the fullest conviction that unless the force stated in our second letter, of the 25th ultimo, is drawn into the field with a celerity equal to

the urgency of the occasion, the period which is to end our liberty, and commence the most disgraceful state of slavery which human nature has ever experienced, is not far distant. But dark and gloomy as the prospect is, America has it in her power to dispel the cloud, by those exertions of which she is abundantly capable, & to which it is her duty to rouse, from every consideration which can affect the human heart.

We are, most indubitably, possessed of the means wherewith to expel the enemy from every part of the continent; but it requires a display of that virtue which distinguished the Citizens of Rome when their state was, as ours is now, on the brink of ruin, And we trust Americans, impressed with a proper sense of the blessings of peace, Liberty, and Independence, will follow the bright example, and evince to future ages, what great minds are capable of, when driven to the extremity of distress.

We dare not suppose, Sir, that efficient measures have not [*been*] adopted by your state to complete your Battalions to the establishment recommended in the letter above referred to; on the contrary, we believe that the men are raised, or raising, but we have to conjure you to hasten them on to the Army, without a moments delay. We intreat you likewise, to give the most pointed direction, to induce an unremitting attention to forward the supplies allotted to your State to be furnished, as specified in our letter of the 2d Instant.

Had the Enemy on Wednesday last, pursued what we generally believed to be their object, our heavy Cannon & stores, would inevitably have fallen into their hands, as our Military force was incompetent to their protection, and the means of conveying them to places more distant, for want of horses and Carriages, out of our power.

Since writing the above, a second letter, from the General, has been handed us, a copy whereof we inclose.² Previous to our recommendation to complete the Battalions to five hundred & four rank and file, we had a conference with the general on the subject, in which the matter was thoroughly canvassed, and the necessity of the augmentation clearly evinced; the reduction of Charles Town, was then problematical; we had even hopes that it would have been saved, and the Maryland & Delaware lines, have returned to this Army, which then, with the quota requested of the states would have amounted to about Twenty five thousand men, the number which Congress had promised our illustrious ally, should be brought into the field, to co-operate with his troops. It is now believed, that Charles Town is reduced, and the troops which defended it, prisoners, consequently we shall not have the Maryland and Delaware troops: hence those in this quarter will be less, by nearly three thousand men, than our estimate, we therefore most earnestly intreat that no deduction may be made from the numbers we have stated as necessary.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's, Most Obedt. Huble Servts. Ph. Schuyler,

Jno. Mathews,

Nathl. Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ For Washington's letter of June 11 describing the new British threat in New Jersey and New York and urging the committee to call upon the states "to carry all the recommendations of the Committee into the most vigorous and immediate execution," especially "completing our battalions by a draft," see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:504-6.

² In his June 12 letter to the committee, Washington reemphasized that anything short of "filling our batalions to their full complement" for the coming campaign would "compel us to confine ourselves to a mere defensive plan" and therefore "disappoint the expectations of our allies and protract the war." *Ibid.*, 19:2.

Committee at Headquarters to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

Morris town June 12th. 1780

We have the honor to Inclose your Excellency letters for the Governor of Rhode-Island and the Presidents of Massachusetts bay and New-Hampshire which we beg the favor may be forwarded by Express.¹

The Enemy still retain the position they took on Thursday last at Elizabeth town point in this state, various are the Conjectures on what they may have in contemplation. That which prevails most generally, is a rapid movement to attempt our posts in the Highlands of New York, as soon as Sir Henry Clinton with the troops from Carolina Arrives. It affords great satisfaction here to find that so considerable a quantity of Salted meat from your state is on the point of arriving at the Highlands. The Commander in chief has Intreated us to press the states of Pensylvania, Delawar And Maryland for an Immediate supply of flour for that post, without which he concieves he shall not be in Condition to venture the army in that Quarter, even should the Garrison be Invested. If It is possible, we Intreat the Aid of a thousand barrels from your State for that post and that It may be expedited thither.

We have the Honor to be, with Sentiments of Great respect And Esteem, Your Excellency's most Obedient, Humble Servants,

Ph: Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Undoubtedly their circular letter to the states of this date, for which see the preceding entry.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 12-13, 1780]

12. Monday. It is said Charlestown is taken by the enemy.

13. Tuesday. I wrote to the honl. Mr. Hancock, Mr. Kettell, Jere. and to Mrs. Holten (No. 131).¹ Genl. Ward arrived here this day.²

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Only Holten's June 13 letter to Jeremiah Sheldon has been found.

² Artemas Ward attended Congress the next day. *JCC*, 17:509.

Benjamin Huntington to Nathaniel Shaw

Sir

Philadelphia June 12th 1780

I Delivered yours to Mr Ellsworth who Informs that he has Recd Eight Hundred Dolls in Your Behalf of the Person you Mentioned, which he will Pay to me in a Few Days.

I have Applied to the Register of the Court of Appeals to Know the State of those two Prize Causes you Mention in yours to me; he Informs That the Two Brothers was Given to Col. Stanton wholly on the Principle that your People had Abandoned her to the Enemy by which Means She was Compleatly Remasted in their Hands. Consequently the Party under Stanton were to be Considered as Captors. This Mistake Must be founded in the Want of Preparation of the Evidence on Your Part. I should Advise to your Procurring the Material Evidenced on Your Part not Used in the Court at Providence Respecting your Peoples Constantly Attending & Assisting to Recover the Prize from the Enemy & in Fine all the Preparation of New Evidence in your Power in Order to Obtain a New Tryal it will be well to Do this as Early as Possible as the Court Sits the 15th of this Month & will Continue untill the Dockett is Clear. You will Please to Transmit a Power to Mr Ingersols, Mr Lewis or Some other Gentleman of the Law to bring forward a Petition in your Name for this Purpose as also to bring forward & Prosecute another in the Case of the Prize Brig Sally with Descretionary Power to Prosecute the Same or not as shall be Advisable. I shall Cheerfully lend all the Aid in my Power, but in my Character here Cannot Act as Atty.¹

We are unaccountably Tantalized with the News of Charlestown which for Ten Days Passd has been Reported to be in the Hands of the Enemy and as often Contradicted & no Accounts to be Relied

on. A Great Number of Arrivals from France and the West Indies
of Late—Proff Spirit at 10/ Per Gallon Pennsylvania Currenecy in
hard Money, Exchange with the Merchant 60 for 1 & falling.

From your Humble Servt.

Benj Huntington

RC (CtY: Shaw Papers).

¹ After Huntington declined to serve as Shaw's attorney in Philadelphia, the appeal to the new Court of Appeals dragged on until Eliphalet Dyer, who had handled the case while a member of Congress in 1779, returned to Congress in 1782 and was able to obtain a rehearing, which resulted in the award of the ship and cargo to Shaw's heirs and the captain of the *Two Brothers*.

For a discussion of this case, see these *Letters*, 13:427-28. See also Benjamin Huntington to Shaw, September 6, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 12. 1780

I am this Hour honoured with your Excellency's Favour of the 10th Instant.¹

The last Evening I received Intelligence from Governor Livingston somewhat similar, respecting the Movements of the Enemy in the Jerseys, which was communicated to Congress & President Reed, that the Militia of this State might be in Readiness to march on the shortest Notice from your Excellency.

President Reed informs me this Day, that the light Horse in this City, & the Militia in several Counties in this State, are ordered to be in Readiness to march on the shortest notice.

We are still in Suspense, having no certain Accounts respecting the Fate of Charlestown but a Variety of reports in Contradiction to each other.

I do myself the Honour to enclose a Paragraph extracted from the Williamsburgh Gazette of the 3d Instant, which is one of the latest Pieces of Intelligence, and puzzling, & problematical as others heretofore received.²

I have the honour to be, with every Sentiment of respect and Esteem, your Excellency's most hbble servt, Sam. Huntington

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Washington's June 10 letter, which was read in Congress on June 13, is in PCC, item 152, 8:591-92; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:493-94.

² The enclosed extract from the "Williamsburgh Gazette," which is in the Washington Papers, DLC, was actually an "Extract of a Letter from Edenton 27th May 1780" reporting that on May 9, 10, and 11 "there was a heavy Cannonade at Chas. Town [and] on the 12 Genl. Lincoln sent out a Flagg, offering to the Enemy Terms of Capitulation."

Thomas McKean to William Atlee

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia June 12th. 1780.

On my return here,¹ among other things I was applied to in behalf of Wm. Smith, the wretched father of the two wretched sons, who murdered Boyd the Dy. Collector of the taxes for Concord township in Chester county, to admit him to Bail. The father is confined in Chester goal, the sons here; the brother & nephew of the old man, being formerly known to me as clients, interceded zealously, but their request could not be granted, as Mr. Bryan & myself conceived it for the public good to issue a Precept for holding another court of Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery for Chester county on Monday the twenty sixth instant. A good deal of old business & some new, since the last, induce me to believe we shall be employed there the whole week, so that you can lay out your accounts accordingly. James Steel, who was indicted for passing counterfeit money in York county and left his Bail, has been arrested for the same practices in Chester county & committed to Chester Goal by Justice Clingan. I have been kept almost constantly busy in arresting & examining criminals, hearing parties on habeas corpora &c. &c. ever since I came here. The Eighty dollar Bills are counterfeited, & have been circulated last week in great quantities. The last M, in the word "seculorum" in the motto round the device in the genuine bill is purposely made near as wide again as in the other parts, in the counterfeit it is of the same width, and the first word "The" in the genuine bills has the E at a proper distance from the H, but in the counterfeits it is very near to the H. There are twenty other marks whereby they may be distinguished, but these will be sufficient for you to discover them.

I am but too well satisfied, that Charlestown capitulated on the eleventh of May in the afternoon, at least all hostilities then ceased & the Enemy were in possession next day, notwithstanding we have no official or other certain accounts, nor even a Lire. about the matter from the Town or it's Environs, and notwithstanding the best Whigs believe or affect to believe the contrary. Indeed it appears to me to have been ingloriously & unnecessarily surrendered, I suppose owing to the militia & inhabitants. This I fear will be attended with the loss of the whole State, if not of North-Carolina also; but we shall recover them again, as I suppose the Great Land-Jobbers & Speculators of Virginia will now exert themselves to retain what they have lately acquired.

The Enemy have been out in full force last Thursday in New Jersey, where there have been two skirmages, chiefly with our Militia, who behaved gallantly and always got the better. The Enemy have murdered Mrs. Caldwell, the wife of Parson Caldwell, because he is a

zealous Whig; they shot her sitting in her own room with nine little children of her own standing round her begging for mercy; then they burnt the house with every article in it. His Meeting-House, and several other houses at Elisabeth-town shared the same fate. They are fortifying at Elisabeth-town Point, and as soon as Clinton returns from Charlestown purpose to attack General Washington; or if they cannot bring him to a general engagement, which I trust they will not in his present weak condition, owing to the great detachments from his army to the Southward and elsewhere, they intend again for this city. The militia of this State must be called out, and I hope they will not behave like the people of Virginia and North-Carolina, refuse to march 'till New-Jersey is conquered and the Enemy at their doors. We must rouse from our lethargy and make one more vigorous exertion, and all will yet be safe.

Tho' the loss of such an Army, six General Officers, 2500 Regular troops, near 4000 militia, 5 frigates, & other vessels of war, with all our ammunition, stores &c &c at Charlestown, is the greatest we have met with since the commencement of the war, yet it may be all for the best, as I am convinced nothing but this, or something as striking, would draw off the general attention to the accumulation of property, and fix it upon the general cause once more. Indeed a noble spirit seems again to pervade this City.

We have had no less than 35 arrivals from sea within ten days past, and many more are expected daily.

I am, Dear Sir, with much esteem, Your most obedient & humble servant,

Thos M:Kean

P.S. Rum, Sugar, Coffee & all West India Goods will be very cheap; the Shop-keepers & other dealers are become very complaisant. June 13th. P.M. Nothing new to day.

RC (DLC: Peter Force Collection).

¹ McKean had resumed his seat in Congress the preceding week. The first mention of him in the journals for this period is on June 7. *JCC*, 17:494.

Philip Schuyler to George Clinton

D'r Sir,

Morristown, June 12 1780.

The Enemy still retain the position they took on Thursday last at Elizabeth Town Point; various are the Conjectures on what operations they have in contemplation, the most prevalent is, a rapid movement to attempt our posts in the Highlands, as soon as they Shall be reinforced by the troops from Carolina, which are hourly expected. The Commander In Chief apprehends it, and has Intreated the Committee Most earnestly to press the States of Pensylvania, Delaware

and Maryland, for a supply of flour, without which he conceives it would be a dangerous Manoeuvre to move the army to the Highlands, as they might risk being starved; we have Already forwarded dispatches to the Governors of the above mentioned states and this Conveyance carries one to Governor Trumbull on the same Subject. If your Excellency or the legislature can possibly Procure a quantity of flour I intreat no time may be lost in forwarding it to the garrison; permitt me also to suggest the necessity of holding the Militia in readiness to reinforce the Garrison.

I have intreated my Colleagues in Congress to hasten on the new bills designed for our state, perhaps they are already expedited; The moment I am advised of any movement of the Enemy which may point to our state I shall advise you thereof by Express. I am Dear Sir with every Sentiment of respect and Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedient Humble Servant,
Ph: Schuyler.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:815-16. RC (N: Clinton Papers), charred.

Philip Schuyler to James Duane

Morris Town June 12th 1780

I thank you my dear Sir for your Philosophical Epistle of the 6th Instant. I am perfectly agreed with you, that It is natural for men to relax and become supine after long and violent exertions, but you are not serious when you apply long and violent exertions to us Americans, we have lingered on and are now profoundly Snoring amidst threatned ruin. It is to be hoped that when "the house is fairly on fire" we shall be roused. I am Confident If we are we shall Extinguish the flames, Courage then my friend. You are firmly persuaded the Legislature and Whigs of the State of Pensylvania will make great Exertions—and Yet the former leaves to the latter the care of filling up their battallions, and subscriptions are proposed to compleat this business—will it do at all, If does will It do In time, I apprehend not.

Our legislature have adopted the Finance scheme of Congress of the 18 March, are the bills sent them? If not pray let them be Expedited—urge I Intreat you to have flour sent to West Point, the enemy will attempt that post. If they succeed they will Embarass us.

Adieu. Make my respects to Your colleagues, and Believe me affectionately Yours, &c &c &c.
P. Schuyler

Philip Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston

Dear Sir

Morris town June 12th 1780

General Arnold delivered me your favor of the 9th Inst this morning.

I believe with you that the states will enter Into spirited exertions but I much doubt If they will be able to draw such a force Into the field as would afford a probable prospect of success in an Enterprize agt New York. The Enemy will in all probability be able to oppose 18000 men to us. If we operate with the whole of our force against Either the City or their fortresses on Long Island, very nearly all theirs may be opposed to us, and we should have little chance of penetrating; If we attack both points our force must be divided and the relative force will Still be the same with this further disadvantage to us that they may easily throw three quarters of their troops to either place and make a Sortie which would endanger one or the other of the besieging armies, our hopes will therefore be reduced to the Effect of a Close blockade and Success from such a manœvre must depend on the Scarcity of provisions with the Enemy—but altho we May not be able to reduce New York with the force we may bring Into the field, Yet It is more than probable that with the aid of the Militia we should be sufficiently Strong to defend the Country, after having made a detachment to Cooperate with the french troops. In the reduction of Canada, the Influence such a Conquest would have on our affairs You will readily conceive, I have therefore to lament that the Idea should be discarded In Congress.

The New York papers give us the Capitulation with all the letters that past between Sir Henry Clinton and General Lincoln. I have little doubt but that the town is reduced, and I fear that In attempting to save a town we have lost an Army and a State, I sincerely pity Lincoln, the brave Defence he has made will not Shelter him from the Imputation of wanting prudence and Judgement. Indeed I am Informed that Members of Congress already fault him for not having retired out of the town, this is cruel for from a fair Construction of what Congress did, he had no Alternative left.

No one here can make a Satisfactory guess at what Induced Kniphausen to Halt his army on Wednesday last on the heights—East of Springfield, as he might have reached those on this side before our Army could possibly possess themselves of them. Indeed if they had General Washington could not have made Effectual resistance with 2396 Rank and file Continental troops and About five hundred Militia, and our heavy Cannon & Stores would have been lost.

You alarm me by Informing that Contributions are making to fill up the Pensylvania battalions. Good God, is this Exertion? Is this providing for an Immediate want, Is It by such Means that we are

to draw an Army Into field, such as we have promised our ally—Indeed, Indeed, I fear we shall become a reproch amongst the nations.

You say not a word of the ladies—are they all well, Is, [. . .] or where is She, Kiss her hand for me, since you pretend that you dare not Venture on her lips. Adieu.

I am Dr Sir affectionately, Yours &c &c Ph. Schuyler

RC (NH: Robert R. Livingston Papers).

¹ Schuyler here wrote three or four words which clearly referred to Livingston's wife, Mary, but they were subsequently lined out and are indecipherable.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia June 13. 1780

Tho' we are yet without official Accounts respecting Charlestown, there scarce remains a dout of it, being taken, & that the Garrison surrendered on terms the 12 of May. The Capitulation, published in New York is in this City, but I have not yet seen it to note the particulars it contains. General Gates is ordered to the Southward to take the Command.¹

The Enemy remain in force at Elizabeth Town point—there object is yet unascertained.

I have forwarded by the bearer 120,000 dollars of the new bills for Connecticut & have more on hand to be forwarded in a few days. The State of New Jersey has also adopted the measure recommended the 18t of March.

I beg leave to express my sincere condolance with your Excellency for the loss of Mrs. Trumbull.²

I have the honor to be, with the greatest Respect, Your Excellency's most obed hum. Servt. Oliv. Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ See Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, this date.

² That is, the governor's wife, Faith Robinson Trumbull, who died on May 29, 1780.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Dr Sr

Philadelphia June 13. 1780.

I am faverd. with your letter of the 3d of this month with its enclosure—And I herewith transmit you a resolution of Congress respecting the subject of it, which I hope will be so practiced upon as in some measure to facilitate a close of the publick Accts.¹

Tho we are yet without official information respecting Charles-

town, there scarce remains a doubt of its being taken; & that the Garrison surrendered in terms the 12 of May. The Capitulation published in New York is in this city, but I have not yet seen it that I can give you the particulars it contains. Genl Gates is ordered to the Southward to take the Command.

I can easily beleive you are yet Commissary, Quartermaster &c & I hope, waving all personal considerations, you will continue to be whatever the extreeme exigency of our affairs require.

I am, Sir, with much Esteem & Respect, Your obedt. Hbbl. Servt.

Oliv. Ellsworth

P.S. 14th. I have enclosed to Mr. Lyman a paper of this day that has the Capitulation mentioned on the other page. O.E.

RC (PHi: Gratz Collection).

¹ Ellsworth enclosed a copy of a June 12 resolution for expediting "the settlement of outstanding accounts" by providing additional commissioners of accounts to settle them. *JCC*, 17:504-5.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia June the 13th. 1780

I inclose you two Resolves of Congress one of June the 2d the other of the 8th¹ by which you will See what hase been done with Regard to the Newhampshire grants and the Several Claimants. I find a Very grate backwardness in many of the members of Congress to Proseed on this buisness untill the Conclusion of the war—and the members Continually Comeing & going it is impossible to foresee what opinion Congress may be off three months hence with Regard to Putting a final end to these unhappy Disputes. I am Sr. with grate Respect your most obedt. Hume. Servent, Nathl. Folsom

P.S. The inclosed Papers Contain all the intelligence of importance.

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ The resolve of the "8th" was undoubtedly Congress' June 9 resolution postponing action on the New Hampshire Grants question until "the second Tuesday in September next." *JCC*, 17:482-85, 499.

Cyrus Griffin to Thomas Jefferson

June 13th [1780]

As this¹ will be the last letter I shall have the honor of writing your excellency in my official capacity—I hope to obtain the governor's approbation that whilst alone and at the head of the Delegation to Congress I have done my part in making those representations and

giving that Intelligence from time to time, which the executive ought constantly to be informed of. I do not recollect any one matter of importance that was omitted in my communications to your excellency—and I confess as an Individual that I felt a pride and pleasure in corresponding with a great character, exclusive of that sacred duty which my honorable appointment demanded of me.

The Enemy are still in the Jersey, not far from Elisabeth Town—and by a letter from Lord Sterling they are considerably reinforced. They have built a floating bridge to secure a retreat to staten Island if necessary. Two or three little battles have taken place, in which the militia fought well but have suffered greatly. I fancy the object of the Enemy was to try the force of General Washingtons regular Troops. Unluckily by the experiment they find our illustrious commander unable to meet them without the aid of militia—and what next? I fear they will remain in the Jersey untill Clinton gets back from Charles Town,² and then make a bold attempt upon the continental stores and army. I wish the french fleet and Troops were happily arrived. About fifty sail of merchantmen have got to this City within a few days past. By one of them the last night we are told that Barbadoes is taken, and probably by this time Antigua and Saint Kitts, but I cannot credit so hastily as some Gentlemen are disposed to do. I have the honor to be with the highest respect, your excellency's most obedient Servant,

C. Griffin³

RC (DLC: Jefferson Papers). A continuation of Griffin to Jefferson, June 9, 1780.

¹ Griffin subsequently inserted the word "perhaps" above this line at this point. In any event, Griffin cast his final vote in Congress this day and took his seat on the Court of Appeals, for which see *JCC*, 17:507, and Griffin to Jefferson, June 9, note 4.

² In the margin of the first page of this letter Griffin inserted the words: "I fear that Clinton is returned in Triumph from Charles Town."

³ Griffin and his Virginia colleagues presented their accounts to the October session of the House of Delegates, which found on December 19 that most of the delegates' accounts were "fairly stated and fully reasonable," but rejected those of Griffin and Meriwether Smith as extravagant requiring each man to justify particular expenses for which they sought compensation from the state. *Journal of the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia* [October 16, 1780-January 2, 1781] (Richmond: Thomas W. White, 1827), p. 58. Griffin made special appeals on February 24, 1781, to the Speaker and to the House of Delegates for a reconsideration, in the course of which he explained details of some of the demands that he had encountered during his tenure as a delegate. The appeal to the House is in the Greene Papers, MiU-C; a transcript of the letter to the Speaker ("Copied from the original then in possession of Mr. Stan V. Henkels") is in the Burnett Papers, DLC. See also Meriwether Smith to the Virginia House of Delegates, February 25, 1781.

Samuel Holten to Jeremiah Sheldon

Friend Jere,¹

Philada. June 13th. 1780.

By a letter I recd. yesterday from the hone. Mr. Gerry dated at

Morris Town the 10th inst.² I perceive that it is not likely that you will reach Boston so soon as you expected; but don't hurry back on this acct. as you must take time to do your business, see your friends and return with great moderation; I ownly wish you to make no unnecessary delays and travel about 15 miles in a day upon your return, but if it is cool you may perhaps travel 20 if you keep my horse or horses well.

If you receive the money at Boston which I expect you will, or any considerable sum, I wou'd have you leave 500 dollars with Mrs. Holten, for such has been the depreciation that I can't tell in what State she may be in as to money, & I am Sensible the demands for taxes are great; you must take her receipt for the same & bring it to me.

(It yet remains uncertain here as to Charlestown.) Don't fail of making my respectful compliments to all inquiring friends at Boston & Danvers.

Yours with respect.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Jeremiah Sheldon of Danvers, Mass., had come to Pennsylvania as Holten's personal servant and had accompanied Elbridge Gerry when he left Philadelphia on June 3. See Holten's Diary, June 3, 1780. Holten had described his contractual arrangement with Sheldon in the following diary entry, dated May 7, 1778, before he left Massachusetts for Pennsylvania.

"I Bargined with Jer. Sheldon to go with me to York Town, as my waiter, & if I like him, I am to pay him handsomely for his trouble, & if I dont like him I am at liberty to Discharge him when I please, paying him well for his Services." Holten Diary, MDaAr.

² Not found.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. 13 June 1780

A Virginia News-paper came to Hand yesterday by the Post which contains the following Paragraph.¹

Williamsburg 3 June 1780

Extract of a Letter from Edenton 27 May 1780

"In great Haste I can tell you that Yesterday an Abstract of a letter came here from the Southward, which says 'that on the 9th, 10th and 11th inst. there was a heavy Cannonade at Charlestown. On the 12th General Lincoln sent out a Flag offering to the Enemy Terms of Capitulation, which were, That if they would agree to a Cessation of Arms for ten Days, that he and his Garrison might march out and carry with them their Stores, &c, he would deliver up the Town.' This it is said the Enemy agreed to. We in this Place wait with great Impatience to know the Truth of this important Matter."

This is either a counteracting Report calculated to meet the Enemy on their own Ground of Deception, or what has really taken Place. I confess it solves more Phenomena, before unaccountable, than any Thing I have heard. Still however it rests only on the Credit of bare Report.

The Militia here are ordered to be in momentary Readiness, and would march in Part immediately if they had a Prospect of being subsisted. A proper spirit seems to prevail, but I do not augur most sanguinely of the vast Effect of it when brought to Practice. In the mean Time I am surprised we have not heard from General Washington.

I am, with much regard Your Excellencys obedt Hble Servt,
Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ This same information had been sent to the commander-in-chief the previous day, for which see Samuel Huntington to Washington, June 12, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir, Philadelphia June 13. 1780

Enclosed you will receive the Orders of Congress of this Day, to take the Command in the southern Department.¹

Although we have received no official Intelligence of the Capitulation of the Garrison at Charlestown, yet from various Accounts and especially via New York it seems to be placed beyond a Doubt, they surrendered the 12th Ulto, and are all made Prisoners.

You are doubtless informed that the Continental Troops of the Delaware and Maryland Lines under Baron de Kalb are gone to the southward, and it is probable a considerable Body of Militia from North Carolina & Virginia are assembled and collecting to cover the Country from the ravages of the Enemy.

As Congress are unable without further Information to give any particular Orders, your own Prudence & Experience will dictate the most proper Measures to be adopted as Circumstances shall appear, for the Defence & Preservation of the Country until further Information can be obtained of the Situation, Strength & Designs of the Enemy.

I have the honour to be, with every Sentiment of Esteem and respect, Your humble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (NHi: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:508, "This Order," Huntington stated more explicitly in similar letters to General Washington and to Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia this day, "is in Consequence of Intelligence received via New York [in James Riving-

ton's *Royal Gazette*], that Charlestown surrendered the 12th Ulto." PCC, item 15, fols. 26-30.

For the steps Congress immediately began taking to prepare for Gates' assumption of command of the southern department, see Huntington to Gates, June 16, 1780.

Allen Jones to Jethro Sumner?

Dr. General.¹

Phila. June 13. 1780

I informed you by Letter some time ago² that the board of War had mislaid the Returns you sent by me and desired, that you would make out another, promising to forward the Commissions immediately. By your last favour I am afraid you never got my Letter. I therefore take this Oportunity to repeat the request of the board of War.

I enclose this Days paper merely to shew you how dull we are. I am with real Esteem, Dr. Sir, Yr Mo. Ob. Sert. Allen Jones

P.S. I hope to leave this in ten days³ and once more enjoy the company of my friend. A.J.

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ Possibly Jethro Sumner, who had been elected a brigadier general by Congress in January 1779 and who had been recruiting the North Carolina battalions for nearly a year. *DAB*.

² Not found.

³ Jones is last recorded in the journals of Congress on June 14, but he probably remained in Philadelphia until after the arrival of his brother Willie. His place in Congress was assumed by his brother, who first attended on June 22. The evidence on Allen's attendance is somewhat ambiguous, because in the first roll call vote listed by Secretary Thomson that day the name "A. Jones" has been lined out from the list of North Carolina delegates. See *JCC*, 17:514, 543, 545.

Robert R. Livingston to the Committee at Headquarters

Gent.

Philadelphia 13th June 1780

At the request of Docr Tillotson (my friend & Brother in law) I trouble you to set right a mistake in Docr. Browne's return, which might otherwise be injurious to him & productive of great injustice.¹ He is as I am informed returned as a young senior surgeon & no notice is taken of his other commissions, whereas he is one of the Oldest senior surgeons, & holds a commission as Phisn. & Surgn Genl. The first of his appointments as senior Surgeon is dated in June 1776. In the campaign 1777 he was appointed Ph & Surgeon Genl. in Genl Orders, & served as such at Ticonderoga & in Octr. 1777

his appointment was confirmed by a commission from Congress. All these are ready to be produced Whenever you shall require. I flatter myself therefore Gent that you will suffer them to have their proper weight in your arrangement. And that I shall not have the mortification to find the rights of a gent. in whose behalf I interest myself sacraficed either to the negligence or private views of the Gent. making an erroneious return. I have the Honor to be Gent., With the utmost respect & esteem, Your Most Obt Hum Servt,

Robt R Livingston

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78)

¹ Livingston later presented to the Committee at Headquarters the following memorandum concerning Thomas Tillotson, which is endorsed by John Mathews "filed July 11, 1780."

"Mem. for Com. at Camp Relative to Mr. Tillotson. He complains of a false return of Doc'r Browne. He was made senior surgeon June 1776. Physitian and Surgeon Genl. in Genl. orders in the summer 1777. By commission from Congress 3d Octr. 1777." PCC, item 39, 2:65-66.

For the committee's related report on the medical department, see John Mathews to the Medical Committee, August 10, 1780.

Tillotson is identified in these *Letters*, 10:592n.1.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

Dear Madam

June 13 1780

I will not omit to acknowledge by this Post the Receipt of your Letter of the 24th. Ulto.¹ because I can in some measure afford you Satisfaction in Regard to what Mr. A[dams] mentioned to both of us. On the 31st. of May Doctr. F[ranklin] was directed to pay the Draughts of Mr. A and Mr. D[ana] to the Amount of their respective Salaries. I will on Friday send you an authentic Resolve which you can forward in addition to those I have sent already.² You will thus be able to keep a Copy for your own Satisfaction.

Only last Night could we determine that Charlestown was taken. It is a fatal Blow indeed to that Country in particular as well as injurious to the common Interst of the Union. Look for the Cause in the *(Aristocratic)* Temper of Mind which must of Course be generated in the rich Masters of many Slaves. You will find too little regard has been paid to *general* Interest. More than one Man has been induced to risk a great Sacrifice of public Interest for the Sake of a Confederation of very dissonant Parts.—If there are not extraordinary Exertions in the Middle and Eastern States, this Year will be filled with our Disgraces.

It is a lamentable Thing that we have been so very drowsy as to need such severe Strokes as the present to rouse us.

I have a most painful Finger to manage the Pen which assures you of the Continuance of my great Esteem as yr. humble Servt.,

J L

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield), 3:365.

¹ For Abigail's May 24 letter to Lovell, see *ibid.*, pp. 355-56.

² The "authentic Resolve" referred to here by Lovell was adopted on May 31, 1780, directing Benjamin Franklin to pay the salaries of John Adams and Francis Dana. The document sent to Abigail, in Lovell's hand with authenticating signature by Charles Thomson, was forwarded by her to John on July 5. See *ibid.*, pp. 365-66, 370-73.

John Walker to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir,

Philada. June 13th. 1780

I hoped before I had been here so long,¹ to have had the pleasure of a few lines from you, if it was merely to inform us of your health and that of your Family, in which you know we are so deeply interested.

My Family is perfectly recovered from the small-pox, which to them was so favorable that they never lay'd by for it. Mrs. Walker had only two pustules & Milly one for each of the united States. We are comfortably enough lodged & but for the exorbitant expences of the place, might do well enough. As there is no provision made by our State for furnishing us with the needful & the Continental Treasury is empty, our situation is disagreeable. I found one Man (Levi Hollingsworth) who agreed to advance me 10,000 dollars for which sum I have taken the Liberty of drawing on our Treasury & hope my Bill will be honored; otherwise judge what will be our Situation. We wish our State would fall on some expedient to furnish such Supplies as may be intended for us, as we find it extremely difficult to get Cash here.

Genl. Gates was this day appointed to take command in the Southern department. The further arrangements &c for that Quarter are yet unfinished for want of the necessary information, having as yet rec'd no Acts of our Misfortune there, but by way of New York. Is not this astonishing when Chas. Town is said to have surrendered on the 12th Ult?

The inclosed paper will inform you of the Enemy's late incursions in New Jersey, which is the only news here. This & the neighbouring States are making the most vigorous exertions to oppose their operations. Pensylvania is about to fill up their Continental Line by subscription & I believe they will effect it, so great & laudable is their Zeal. The very Lad[e]s contributing large sums on the inclosed plan, drawn up by the Minister of France's Secretary.²

Virginia's conduct in rejecting the Scheme of March the 18th Ap-

pears to give as great uneasiness here,³ as the Loss of Chas. Town. I believe it is pretty generally approved in the Eastern States & already adopted by most of them. My Family desires to be affectionately remembered to Mrs. Jefferson & Miss Patsey And I am, My dear Sir, Your affectionate Friend & humble Servt., Jn. Walker

RC (DLC: Jefferson Papers).

¹ Walker had taken his seat in Congress on May 22, 1780. See *JCC*, 16:268, 17:443.

² Not found, but for information on the "plan" drawn up by François, marquis de Barbé-Marbois, La Luzerne's secretary, to form ladies' associations in the states to collect funds and make clothing for the Continental soldiers, see Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:442n and 532n. See also Lyman Butterfield, "General Washington's Sewing Circle," *American Heritage*, new ser. 2 (Summer 1951): 7-10, 68.

³ For Virginia's subsequent compliance with "the scheme of March the 18th," see the letters to Jefferson from Joseph Jones, June 30, and from Samuel Huntington, August 4, 1780.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 14-15, 1780]

14. Wednesday. One of Genl. Lincolns aids is arrived with the accounts of the surrender of Charlestown.¹

15. Thursday. I recd. a letter from Mr. Avery, informing me of my appointment to the council board.²

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Col. Jean-Baptiste Ternant was the courier for Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's May 24 letter and "sundry papers containing an account of the surrender of Charlestown." These were read in Congress on June 15 and are in *PCC*, item 158, 2:373-437. *JCC*, 17:514.

² For Holten's decision to accept this appointment to the Massachusetts Council, see Holten's Diary, June 19, 1780, note.

Samuel Huntington to Caesar Rodney

Sir,

Philadelphia June 14. 1780¹

By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 12th Instant you will be informed that an immediate & decisive Answer to the resolution of Congress of the 22d of May last respecting an Embargo is required.²

I flatter myself that the Measures your State have taken on that Subject before this Time, under the present Circumstances of our public Affairs, will answer the Expectation of Congress.

I have the honor to be, with very great respect your Excy's hbble servt.
Sam. Huntington President

RC (Privately owned original, 1974). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ This letter is dated June 15 in Huntington's presidential letterbook.

² *JCC*, 17:504. For Congress' May 22 resolve requesting Delaware to reinstitute its embargo on provisions, see Huntington to Joseph Reed, May 24, 1780.

President Rodney had, however, already submitted Congress' previous request to the Delaware Assembly, and on June 22 he reported to Huntington that Delaware had complied with Congress' resolve by continuing the state's embargo on provisions "until the twentieth day of October Next." See Rodney, *Letters* (Ryden), pp. 345-46.

Nathaniel Peabody to Nathaniel Folsom

Sir, Morris Town June 14th 1780

Your favour of the 5th inst. has been duly recd. Am obliged to You for the information therein Contain'd—Next the Great Concerns of the Continent—I am Anxious to know the fate of the Vermont affair. I beg you to urge the determination of that business, as it is my Opinion every moments delay is dangerous.¹

As to the money I will endeavour to See it Conveyed to New-Hampshire if you Should not find an oportunity to Send it Safe by the time it is ready.

The Enemy remains Nearly in the Same posision they have for Several dayes past—but as Genl Schuyler who is Obliging enough to take Charge of this Letter—will be abundantly able to Give you Every information respecting, the Two Armies. And I wish You to Call on him for Information upon various Subjects of importance As we are in the most Critical Situation. The Commander in Chief is under Embarrassments on account of Resolve of Congress Confining his operations to the thirteen U States. I wish Your influence to Get the Error rectified. You well know it is a matter of vast importance to the Eastern States that we turn our Eyes Toward Canada, Nova Scotia, &c I mean if we should be able to keep an Army in the field. It will [*be*] impossible for us to operate effectually in this Quarter, unless we Can, at least, point out objects to divide the Enemies force. This is a matter I could wish might be kept as Secret as possible.²

I am with Sentiments of respect, Your most obedt And very Hume
Servt. Nathl. Peabody

P.S. A Line from you as often as Conveint woud be agreeable.

RC (PHi: Gratz Collection).

¹ Folsom, on the contrary, had already asked Congress to delay action on "the Vermont affair" on June 9 when the New York delegates had sought a Congressional decision on the controversy. *JCC*, 17:499.

² "Secret" efforts to resolve questions of Washington's operational authority were brought into public debate when the issue was raised in the Committee at Headquarters' July 18, 1780, letter to President Huntington.

See also Philip Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston, May 30, 1780, note 3.

Nathaniel Peabody to Samuel Holten

Dear Sir:

Morristown, 14th June 1780.

In looking over my papers this day find two of your favours,¹ but find no memorandum of my acknowledging them, so take it for granted I have not.

But be assured the neglect was not for want of proper respect. We have been exceedingly harassed and fatigued of late owing to the movements of the enemy, which has kept the papers upon the move for some days.

Your letter of the 4th ult. enclosing several papers respecting the medical department makes mention of my having received the last returns before leaving Phila., but I have not those papers, nor do I recollect receiving them. The Eastern returns have come to hand since here. We have not as yet been able to take up the Hospital Department. The sick and wounded suffer for want of stores. Your kind aid in procuring some to be sent forward would be of eminent service to the army.

The enemy lay in much the same situation they have done for several days past. However, Gen. Schuyler who is now going to Philadelphia, will give you the fullest account of affairs here. I wish you to confer with him upon various subjects of great moment as our situation is very critical. We want the union as well as the wisdom of every friend to extricate us from the horrid dilemma. The Commander in Chief is under great embarrassment by a resolve of Congress restricting him in his operations to the thirteen states, the enemy being apprised of this well know he cannot pursue any object without the states, tho' ever so easy and advantageous for us. Of course they will concentrate their whole force, so as to render any undertaking hazardous on our side. We may be in a situation to co-operate with our allies against Canada or Nova Scotia on some other plan, not within these states to very great advantage, when there may be no object in our ability to pursue within the states. You will pardon me when I take the liberty to observe as my opinion that it is of the last importance to the Eastern States to have the Commander in Chief left totally unshackled with respect to his operations. I mean if we should be happy enough to keep up an army.

I must therefore entreat you to advise my friend Mr. Lovell of the matter, and shall rest assured that both of you will ardently pursue such measures as you shall judge for the public good.

I have the honor to be with perfect respect your most obedient and humble servant,

Nath. Peabody

P.S. Compliments to the ladies and gentlemen of the family.

¹ A letter from Holten to Peabody of May 20 has been printed above, but his May 4 letter, which he refers to in paragraph 3, has not been found.

John Armstrong, Sr., to Horatio Gates

Dear General

Philada. 15th June 1780

Whilst I congratulate you on your present unanimous appointment to the Command of the Southern department, I cannot be insensible of the prospects before you & the many known & unknown difficulties you have to encounter. Let wisdom, patience, and fortitude from above carry you through.

These two last days & part of the Nights I have been employed on your affair—as your first nomination (under the sudden concern for the loss of Charlestown & State of that Country) Seemed to import little else than hasty Orders to March; it's true a Committee was at the Same time appointed to consider the number of troops to be drawn forth, in the first instance, but Still you wanted money in order to proceed, as well as powers to call on these States for future Supplys. For this I called on the board of war, who to do them justice cordially fell in with everything & reported thereon Such a Sum for the journey, and other powers, as I hope will be agreeable to you for the present, and Congress readily resolv'd on the Report. I have more privately pressed the Board of War to Send also by the Express, One piece of Linnen, meaning the major part for your Self, and the residue for Major Armstrong, this they thought was a little out of their way, but gave me more than half a promise. The Major has not a Shilling until he reach you to pay what debt he may be in, beside my keeping him in Some pocket money these three months past; he will communicate to you what I have wrote him respecting Rank. Anything of this Sort must now come thro' the Board of War.¹

The Magazines at Westpoint are empty, and General Washingtons Situation for force & provisions, in one word is very Allarming. The Enemy lately at Elizabeth Town in force above four thousand appear disposed to keep the field & are said to be daily Reinforced, their intentions a little mysterious. Some immagin to attack our Army now but weak, others that West point may be the Object perhaps the main motive may be to prevent a junction with the French troops shou'd any arrive. Money we have next to none, our credit greatly reduced & what may be the event of the Campaign is only known to God. We hope however that our loss to the South will serve to inspire the States with fresh vigour. The Government of Pennsylvania will I believe exert it's Self, having already in Some degree gone into Martial Law. Governor Clinton has I believe got in the Rear of Sir John Johnston & burned his Boats, if so the York line Such as it is may Soon return to the Army.

I am dear General with every cordial wish for your Conduct and happiness, Your truly Affectionate friend & humb. servt.

John Armstrong

[P.S.] I am much concerned for Major Armstrongs delicate constitution in that warm Climate, but the Lot appears to be cast & heaven presides. You cannot with any prospect of health to your troops in the warm Months Encamp anywhere near Charlestown.

RC (NHi: Gates Papers).

¹ Armstrong returned to this subject a few weeks later with the suggestion that his son, and Gates' aide, Maj. John Armstrong, Jr., receive a promotion by brevet. See Armstrong to Gates, July 21, 1780.

Armstrong's son, John, Jr., also wrote to Gates this day, in the course of which he reported several interesting tidbits of Philadelphia gossip concerning two of Gates' opponents, delegates Philip Schuyler and Ezekiel Cornell. "[William] Clajon [Gates' secretary] has I suppose," young Armstrong wrote, "advised you of the many tricks practised to get Scuyler at the head of the Qur. Mr. General's Dpt.—& that he has condescended to suggest that if restored to his military rank—rather than the service should suffer under the resignation of Green—he will accept of the Appointment. Disinterested Man! But it's too gross an imposition for Congress to go into, or the army to relish. Were it a meer pretension to high Office, & a generous pursuit of fame I could speak of It without acrimony—but when the little, envious vindictive spirit governs the man, a wish to stand *between you & ———* [i.e., Washington], I cannot but feel resentments & should not hesitate a moment to decree him an halter. What meanness will not man be guilty of? But I wish not to moralize upon the subject & shall only give you a fresh instance by way of illustration. Cornell you must have heard is in Congress—& certainly in the vulgar phrase, for want of a better. When a late proposal was made to call you down to Philada. upon obvious principles—it was controuled & he was among the number who voted against it—nor did he blush to avow that he was determined in his opinion by the probable effects it would have upon General Washington—who could not but interpret an order from Congress that you should be consulted upon the operations of the Campaign, as an instance of too great partiality to your judgment. . . . My Brother [Dr. James Armstrong] will explain the circumstance of Cornell—as he heard him express the sentiment." Gates Papers, NHi.

Thomas Burke to Anthony Wayne

Dr Sir

Philadelphia June 15th, 1780.

I am very Sorry that your Sudden departure for Camp prevented me from the pleasure of Seeing you again after the day I so agreeably Spent with you—and I am Still more Concern'd that I cannot hope to Succeed in having your Abilities engaged in the Command of the department where I am an Inhabitant, and whither I am Just Setting off.¹ I found, on examining the resolution I mentioned to you, that it was entered into on a particular Occasion of disputed rank,² and *Commissions were cancelled and renewed* agreeably to the principle adopted. Had the affair Occurred in the Winter, and a proper Scrutiny taken place, I am persuaded the principle would and ought to

have been applied to you; and your Commission would, Consequently, have been made out So as to give you the indisputable rank. But as that was not done, and the time at present would not admit of Such disquisitions; I despaired of being able to fall on any mode that would Satisfy your Just, and delicate feelings, that forbids your offering the least possible Shadow of Injury to those of others, or of reconciling the wishes of my self and my Colleagues with the General, and more prevailing Considerations of public utility. We were therefore obliged, reluctantly, to forego a favorite object.

I received yours, inclosing a Copy of what you wrote to Major Lee on the affair to which my last to you related.³ We were both peculiarly fortunate in a Mediator who possesses Such a Just Sense of honor and of propriety; and whose friendly regard to both, as well as his peculiar merit engaged our unlimited Confidence. A different Character, most probly, would have perplexed the Misunderstanding still more, and Initated dispositions, of too much Sensibility, to lengths whose Consequences might have been unhappy. As a proof how entirely I acquiesce in your Sentence, I declare that my Esteem for and disposition towards Major Lee are not in the least impaired by the like Incident. Long life and health are the only things which, your own Merits cannot command, and these give me leave to wish you, Glory, and every thing else worthy your ambition, will always play round with the fondness of an enamoured mistress.

Adieu my dr Sir and believe always truly yours,

Thos. Burke

RC (PHi: Wayne Papers).

¹ Burke's last vote before departing for North Carolina was cast the previous day. He did not return to Congress until December. *JCC*, 17:514, 18:1154.

² For the "occasion of disputed rank" and seniority among the senior officers of the Pennsylvania Line to which Burke may be referring, see these *Letters*, 12:424-25.

³ For the "affair" referred to here, see Burke to Wayne, June 6, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir,

Philada June 15. 1780

Congress repeat their Applications to your State.¹ They would willingly hope that their former representations have not been ineffectual, and that the States are pursuing Measures to enable our Armies to take the Field with a Force superior to that of the Enemy, and with such ample Supplies of Provisions as will not only maintain them in Plenty, but enable the Commander in Chief, if necessary on any extraordinary Occasion to avail himself of the Aid of the Militia. But upon these hopes Congress dare not rely. Every Moment presses. It is necessary they should have the most explicit Assurances, not

only that their requisitions, but that such Compliance will be as immediate as the public Wants are urgent. The Letters from our Committee at Head Quarters to you, state those Wants without Exaggeration. They state some Facts and leave to your judgements to supply others which it would have been improper to commit to Paper.

The Object of this Address is only to enforce their requests, and to entreat not to repose your Safety upon the Spirit and Vigilance of others, while any Means within your own Power are left untried. The present Occasion calls for the United Force of America. It gives us great Consolation, that, notwithstanding the Difficulties in which we are involved, the resources of the States if speedily applied, are sufficient to relieve us from them.

Every State in the Union is bound by the strongest Obligations to afford us their Aid, and we trust, that, at this critical Emergency, no present Ease, or Convenience of Individuals will be put in Competition with the lasting Happiness of Millions. That the rulers of States will not hesitate to exert their utmost Authority, and that the People have too much Understanding to refuse a temporary Submission to such vigorous Exertions as are necessary to secure them from continued Oppression, and established Tyranny.

A common Council involves the Power of Direction. Let not our Measures be checked or controuled by the Negligence or partial Views & Interests of separate Communities, while they profess to be Members of one Body. Too long have the dearest Interests of America been sacrificed to present Ease. Too many of us have slept in false Security. Let us awake before the Season for successful Exertion is passed. Judge you whether the Loss of Charlestown, and the Situation of your Grand Army do not call for every spirited Effort. The Objects which claim your immediate Attention are clearly pointed out by the requisitions of Congress, and their Committee at Head Quarters. Let them be complied with. Enable us to cooperate vigorously with the Fleets and Armies of our Ally, and we may reasonably hope, through the Blessing of divine Providence, for a speedy and happy Termination of a Controversy, which is to give Freedom and Independance to Millions.

I have the honour to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "Circular from New Hampshire to Maryland."

¹ This exhortation to the states was drafted by Robert R. Livingston, who had been appointed on June 14, with Oliver Ellsworth and Timothy Matlack, to respond to a request from the Committee at Headquarters for "the intervention of Congress" in support of the committee's recent appeals to the states for provisions and supplies. *JCC*, 17:510, 515-17; and Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, June 12, 1780. Livingston's revised draft is in PCC, item 24, fols. 280-81. An earlier draft is in the Livingston Papers, NHi. For the deletion by Congress of a number of blunt passages deemed offensive to the states, see the text in *JCC*, 17:516-17; and Edmund C. Burnett, *The Continental Congress* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1941), pp. 454-55.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia June 15. 1780¹

By the Act of Congress of the 12th Instant herewith enclosed you are instructed to give Orders for stopping all Issues of Provisions & Forage, except to the Army & Militia in Actual Service, and such Persons as are attached to the Military in Camp, or on March, under such Exceptions only, as you on advising with the Commander in Chief may judge absolutely indispensable.²

You have also enclosed an Act of the 13th Instant, in Consequence of your Letter of the 5th Instant.³

I have the honor to be, with the highest Respect, Gentlemen, your most hbble servant,
S. Huntington President

P.S. Your dispatches by messenger Tatham are receivd.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ This letter is dated June 13 in Huntington's presidential letterbook.

² See *JCC*, 17:503.

³ For the two enclosed June 13 orders, concerning quartermaster purchasing estimates and a request for transferring surplus duck from the navy to the army for tents, see *JCC*, 17:494-95, 508-9; and Committee at Headquarters to Huntington, June 5, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 15. 1780

Your Excellency will receive enclosed an Act of Congress of the 12th Instant, containing Instructions to the Committee at Head Quarters respecting the Issues of Forage and Provisions.

Also another Act of the 14th Instant relating to Genl Gates his Command in the southern Department.¹

The last Evening Colo Ternant arrived with Despatches from Genl Lincoln containing a particular Account of the Siege and Surrender of Charles Town, which will soon be forwarded to your Excellency.

General Lincoln is daily expected here in Person.

I have the Honour to be, with the highest respect & Esteem, your Excellency's most hbble servt,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 16, 1780.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir,

June 15th. 1780

I was two days ago much obliged by the Receipt of your Favor of the 10th.¹ Congress has this day by a circular Letter sanctified the measures you had adopted in Comtee.² I own I think the Call upon Mass. very heavy but the Crisis of Things seems to point it out as indispensable.

The Paper which I send in Print is as good for your Information as if it had Thompson's Sanction. Col. Ternant arrived yesterday and Genl. Lincoln may be hourly expected. If no misfortune takes suddenly place upon our army at Morris Town, we shall do very well, upon Supposition That the other States rouse as much as this appears to have done. Genl. Gates is ordered to the Southward. I wish I knew what were Genl Washington's Intentions in regard to him. I know a Letter was sent on from Head Quarters about 10 Days ago but whether it was only a Letter of Intelligence from the Genl. or an Order I can not guess.³

My Son will deliver This and repay what you was so very kind and *fatherly* as to furnish him with in his late Embarrassment on his Way hither. He is prodigiously grown since I left him at home. He is quite young in his manners—a Colt without Education—a Sample of the Injury which arises to my Family from my long absence.⁴ I regret more than ever that I can not return; but our affairs are now such that I should feel as if I was sneaking away from the Burthen of them, if I paid such attention just at this time to my private Concerns, bad, very bad as they are described to be; I will first see public Matters mended.

We Live here not quite so pleasingly as when you was an Eyewitness and could *praise* our Situation, in a confidential midnight Tête a Tête. We are of *six Sorts*.

No Returns of Men or Provisions at the different Periods of the Siege of Charlestown are come to Hand so that you can have nothing new beyond what Rivington has given. The Enemy are at Liberty to put down great Numbers for the Garrison because all the Citizens are rated like militia in the Spirit of the Capitulation but Col. Ternant says that there were not above 900 (nine hundred) armed militia and about 2000 called Continentals. They had been 3 days without meat and had but Little Store of Rice. They were treated with all the Ceremonies due to the Troops of an Independent Nation, in the arrangements consequent upon Genl. Lincoln's last printed Letter in which he desires that Persons might be appointed for such Purposes, and which was granted though Rivington does not give the Result.

Mr. Laurens is not yet gone from North Carolina. I believe we

shall empower Mr. Adams or Mr. Dana to take up the Business till Mr Laurens shall be on the Spot to execute his Commission.⁵

I can not scrawl on without neglecting Wife &c &c.

Your affectionate J L

RC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary War Documents).

¹ Not found; but on June 13 Lovell wrote a brief note to Peabody acknowledging receipt of a June 10 letter and informing Peabody that a syringe he had ordered was not ready. "My Pen Finger," Lovell also complained, "is in the greatest imaginable Pain . . . need I make it worse writing about Charlestown." Peabody Papers, NhHi.

² See Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, this date.

³ General Washington had written a brief letter to Horatio Gates on June 4 simply inquiring "whether the situation of your private affairs will permit you to take the field this Campaign or not." Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:473.

⁴ Lovell's son James was also carrying with him on his return home the following June 14 letter from Thomas Bee to "Isaac Smith Esqr., Merchant at Boston."

"The inclosed Letter & Certificates which I received from Mr Smith in South Carolina would have been forwarded sooner, had any safe Opportunity offered, since my Arrival at this place, as I did not chuse to sent them by Post I have delivered them to the Bearer a Son of Mr Lovell of Boston one of the Delegates in Congress, & make no doubt of your receving them safe, of which you will be so kind as acquaint me, that I may inform Mr. Smith of the same." Smith-Carter Collection, MHi.

⁵ On June 20 Congress authorized John Adams, or Francis Dana if Adams were incapacitated, to undertake Henry Laurens' mission to the United Provinces to negotiate a loan. *JCC*, 17:534-37.

James Lovell to Baron Steuben

Dear General

Philadelphia June 15. 1780

The just picture which you drew on the 30th Ult. of our shameful posture as *Watchmen* was delivered to me by my Son who will now have the Honor of delivering my Professions of affectionate Regard for you. I could not before now even ask you to hope that the people would awake, but the very great Change which is taking place in this State is an Earnest of good Things from other parts. I am grieved to find that Mass. is so backward with her Batalions. I think that they will not, they cannot continue so a day longer.

I am now to refer you to Mr Rivington's Account of the *true* State of Charlestown. Col. Ternant arrived here on Wednesday P.M. Genl. Lincoln is hourly expected. This Loss was familiar to your Mind from your first getting the News of our Army being there in a Cul-de-Sac: But, false Reports have kept up a Hope here that makes the unfortunate Certainty more cutting now to our S[piri]ts.

Col. Ternant will doubtless write to you and tell you that it was a Wonder that the City did not fall sooner rather than that it is now captured. He appears to think that the Enemy respect the Beseiged for their perseverance. There has certainly been much Ceremony preserved in closing the Scene as if two European Armies had been

contending, though the Name of Rebels is yet used in England to denominate Us.

Quere, now what is to be pursued *when* the French Fleet arrives. An Angel from Heaven, warlike as the best of Milton's could not *now* tell. He would be as we are, obliged to go into the distracting Field of Ifs & Ands & Buts—Supposition & Conjecture. Above all He would be obliged to say, "If there is any true Spirit remaining in the people at large", we may hope to ruin the Enemy. It is reported from Virginia that the British are making progress towards Wilmington, I wish they may amuse themselves for a time in such a Manner rather than send a Detachment to the Jersies. But we should not suffer such Reports nor any thing else to amuse us from due preparation.

I must request you to dictate the best Rout for my Son on his Return if he should not be in Company with some one acquainted with the Circumstances of the Country from Camp to Fish Kills.

I desire you to consider me ever affectionately & respectfully, Dear General, Your humble Servant,
James Lovell

RC (NH: Steuben Papers).

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In committee of Congress, Morristown
16th June, 1780.

Sir,

Since General Schuyler's departure for Philadelphia, to lay before Congress the arrangement of the quarter master general's department,¹ we have recd. a letter from General Greene, of the 14th instant, on the subject, a copy of which we inclosed.²

We have the honor to be, With the greatest respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's most obedient servants.

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews and Peabody. Endorsed: "Letter from Comee at head Quarters June 16. 1780. Read June 19. Enclosed Genl. W. to comee June 13. Genl Greene to Com June 14."

¹ For the committee's plan for the reorganization of the quartermaster's department, see Philip Schuyler to Huntington, June 17, 1780.

² This letter and the enclosed June 14 letter from Nathanael Greene were laid before Congress on June 19. The committee also enclosed a letter of June 13 from the commander-in-chief, for which see PCC, item 152, 8:601-2; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:5-6.

Both Washington and Greene had addressed the question of the committee's power

to determine the salaries of the department's officers. Conscious of the urgency for action, Washington felt that the committee should "fix the Salaries of the different offices finally" so that the department could "instantly be put in full activity." For his part, Greene warned that unless the salary structure enabled him "to employ suitable characters, and men on whom I can depend for support, the mines of Peru would not induce me to take further charge of the Department." He further agreed that the matter should not be referred to Congress and asked pointedly: "Will it not be dangerous to the honor and standing of the Committee to excuse themselves from so important a matter, from the apprehension that their powers are incompetent?" See PCC, item 155, 1:291-94. It is clear from Philip Schuyler's June 17 letter to Huntington, however, that the committee had not "conceived themselves authorized to have determined on the pay to the Officers."

Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Jay

Sir, Philada. 16 June 1780

The {Embarrassments}¹ which the {Depreciation} of the {Currency had created in our public affairs} at the Time of your Departure for Europe, were, as you will remember {very distressing} and {have} till lately continued {to increase}. Congress greatly anxious to avail themselves of every possible Means {of checking this Evil on 23 Nov last} ventured {on [the] Expedient of drawing Bills on you for [one] hundred thousand},² As you have been already advised by Letter of 11 December last.³ This they thought they might risque considering the Importance of the Object. But as the Time {of your arrival in} Europe could not be counted on with Certainty, and {Negotiation might not be immediately practicable} and {disappointment would be injurious to the Public faith} they determined {to draw at Six months sight which we hope will allow} sufficient Leisure for every necessary Preparation. It will not be amiss to observe that Congress have not taken this measure without some Circumstances of Encouragement that {funds to satisfy draughts would not be unattainable}. Since the agreeable News of your Arrival and {to answer the purpose of great National Utility} Congress⁴ have directed {Bills to be drawn for the additional sum} of 25000 {Dollars at} 60 {days sight}. The Exertions necessary at this Crisis require the Command of a considerable Sum of Money, but {these drafts} we hope will {not be increased till} we have Intelligence {from you respecting your Protestation}⁵ and {Assurance}. We have the Pleasure to inform you that from the Measures which have lately been adopted, and with which you are made acquainted by the Journals, the Finances begin to assume a better Appearance, and our publick Affairs in general will, we hope, be delivered from many of the Embarrassments under which they have laboured.

{But We earnestly entreat you to push} every possible Exertion {for procuring Aid of Money from the court of Spain without which}

we are {fearful measures of} Congress {fully to restore the currency}
and {prosecute the war with desired effect will fall short} [of] the
desired Success.

We are, Sir, with great respect, your obedt Servants,

James Lovell

Robt R. Livingston

Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NNC: Jay Papers). Written by Houston, and signed by Houston, Livingston, and Lovell. LB (DNA: PCC, item 79).

¹ Words in braces were originally written in cipher by Houston and were deciphered and interlined by Jay.

² The letterbook copy of this letter reads "pounds sterling" at this point. PCC, item 79, fols. 264-66.

³ See Committee for Foreign Affairs to Jay, December 11, 1779.

⁴ In the LB, "by their resolution of the 19th instant" was inserted at this point, a reference to Congress' May 19 resolution on the subject. *JCC*, 17:438.

⁵ In the LB, "prospects" is given instead of "Protestation."

Committee of Congress to the Committee at Headquarters

Gent.

Philadelphia 16th June 1780

On conversing with the Minister of France upon the state of the posts in the highlands, he has very obligingly proposed that you should apply to their use such salt provisions (consisting of about 500 barrels of pork) as Govr. Trumbul has procured on his account the continent undertaking for the repayment.

We would wish you to avoid drawing for this unless you conceive it cannot be procured in convenient time elsewhere. If you should find it necessary to avail yourselves of their supply you will be pleased to give the earliest advise of it to the minister of France that he may concur with you in endeavouring to replace it.¹

We are Gent.

Robt R Livingston

Olivr Ellsworth

Jos. Jones

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Livingston and signed by Livingston, Ellsworth, and Jones.

¹ For the appointment of this committee and its deliberations, see Samuel Huntington to La Luzerne, May 24, note 2. For its May 27 report and Congress' actions thereon, see Huntington to the States, May 29, 1780.

James Duane to Philip Schuyler

My dear General

Philadelphia 16 June 1780

I am much obliged to you for your favour of the ———.¹ My Letter to which it is an answer² you are pleased to think to be philosophical & that you doubt the Parts which give propriety to the Conclusion. I will not at present enter into a dispute with you tho' I am of opinion that the Exertions of the Whiggs in those States have been great and in some States such as will deserve the Admiration of Mankind. My Petition will I trust, be soon verified that distress and Danger will rouse us to Action and Vigour, and reanimate us with a Degree of patriotic Zeal suited to the Magnitude of the Con-juncture and the Value of the Prize for which we contend. From this Opinion I am led to contemplate the approach of distress itself with Serenity and I had almost said with some Mixture of Contentment. It is an Evil which will be productive of essential good.

The Loss of Charles Town was an expected Event at least in the Judgement of Men of Experience and Information; far from producing Despondency it has pointed out the Necessity of Vigour in Government, and Exertion in the Citizens, in such strong Colours that the Flame of patriotism once more illuminates and revives our slumbering spirits. The Merchants are pursuing spirited Measures to aid us with an immediate supply of provisions. If it succeeds your Colleagues will have a share of Merit. The plan³ is to engage them on their own Credit to send forward three millions of Rations and 500 Hogsheads of Rum which will be a Support of 75 days for 40,000 Men; and woud give us time to receive the Supplies of the States, and the advantages of the new Harvest. Add to this that the best part of the human race, the Ladies, are contributing their Eloquence and their pin money for the public Service. It woud give you pleasure to see their Committees on their Rounds of their several districts pleading the Merits and the Wants of the Army: and pleading for them with resistless force. Will not a fire kindled up by these Angels overspread every Breast and will not the sacred Spark be communicated from Individuals to Governments and Legislatures: & from the Town of Philadelphia to every Town on the Continent? and from its Legislature to every other Legislature in the Union? With how much Pleasure and Justice could I expatiate on this acceptable Service of the fair! but to one of your Sensibility it is unnecessary. Your feelings will take the Load of my Pen; and your own Imagination beggar my feeble Praises.

I woud not have you suppose that I do not feel a heavy Load of anxious Solicitude on the State of our publick affairs. They press hard upon us: but the Means of Safety under Heaven are in our power, and I trust we have yet a portion of Virtue sufficient to draw

them forth into successful Exertion. The House you say is in the mean time on Fire—true! but the Cry is gone forth & the common danger will produce needful Succour.

I cannot but think that the Committee of which you are at the Head have effected very essential Services in our Cause by giving a true Idea of our Wants and or prospects. They will require a high Degree of Glory if they persevere and discharge their Trust to its fullest Extent. You my dear Sir peculiarly are placed in a conspicuous Station: because it is a Station to which you are fully competent and on the Execution of the Duties of which much, very much depends: and because the publick and Confidence is preengaged for every Measure you shall recommend.

I have exerted myself in procuring for you some Segars. They are too valuable to be forwarded at a Hazard. Let me know where I shall send them.

Present my most respectful Complims to Mrs Schuyler & the Circle of our Friends and believe me to be always, My dear Sir, with very great Regard Your affecte & most Obt Servt, Jas Duane

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ Duane is referring to Schuyler's letter of June 12.

² See Duane to Schuyler, June 6, 1780.

³ For further information on this "plan" of the Pennsylvania merchants, see Elbridge Gerry to Robert Morris, June 11; and Robert R. Livingston to Schuyler, this date.

James Henry to George Washington

Sir, Philada. June 16th. 1780

Permit me to intrude upon your more important Avocations, for a moment, and to inclose to you a Copy of a letter from Col. Buford to the Virga. Assembly, which your Friend Col. B. Harrison, has requested me to forward to you.¹

I wish I could send you better tidings; but 'tis necessary to know the danger, to enable us to make more effectual preparations to avert it. With every wish for your Safety and Success, I beg leave to Subscribe myself, Sir, Your most obedt servt. Jas. Henry

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ The enclosed copy of Col. Abraham Buford's May 26 letter on conditions in South Carolina following the capitulation of Charleston is in the Washington Papers, DLC. For Washington's June 29 reply to Henry, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:92.

Samuel Holten to the Massachusetts Council

Sir. Philadelphia June 16th. 1780.

Since I had the honor of addressing you last,¹ Congress have re-

ceived dispatches from General Lincoln, and I am sorry the contents are not so agreeable as we cou'd wish, the enemy are in possession of Charlestown, yet, I have no reason to think but what the General & our *little brave* army did all that cou'd be expected under their circumstances; for particulars respecting the capitulation, I beg leave to refer you to the printed paper, 'tho' not published by the authority of Congress (because it did not come to hand time enough to be in this paper) yet, I think the articles of capitulation are nearly the same.

By letters lately received from General Washington, I perceive he is under apprehensions that he should be obliged to withdraw the army under his immediate command to the southward of the Delaware for want of supplies; and if that shou'd be the case, the states of New York & N. Jersey will be greatly distressed; and I understand the important posts on the highlands are in great danger for want of provision; But as I expect the bearer of this will bring you another *earnest* address of Congress, it may be unnecessary for me to add.

It gives me sensible satisfaction to hear of the exertions of the state of Pennsylvania, & the citizens here in particular who are contributing largely for the relief of the army; I am informed the President of the state is preparing to take the field, at the head of a large number of his militia in case the enemy advance.

Congress has directed General Gates to take the command in the southern department.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Sir, your most obedient servant;
S. Holten²

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Addressed: "Honble. the President of the Council of Massachusetts."

¹ See Holten to the Massachusetts Council, June 6, 1780.

² Holten also wrote the following brief letter on June 17 to the newly elected president of the Massachusetts Council, James Bowdoin:

"I had the honor of addressing you yesterday, but this mornings paper contains more authentick intelligence from Charles town, & some other matters which may be worthy of your attention; Therefore I do myself the honor of inclosing it." Revolutionary War Letters, M-Ar.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 16 June 1780

Your Excellency's Favour of the 13th inst. I received the same Day. When you wrote the President of Congress on the 11th inclosing Lord Sterling's of the 10th, we took the earliest opportunity next Morning to bring the Question for sending a reinforcement of Militia

from this State into New-Jersey, under Debate.¹ There is the utmost readiness in Congress to make the requisition, and in the Executive of the State to comply with it, but the Scantiness of Supplies makes it necessary to avoid as much as possible, for this Moment, multiplying numbers beyond what is absolutely essential. However that every Thing might be in the utmost Forwardness for an Occasion, a large Body have Orders to be in momentarily readiness, and will, I hope, march with alacrity on the shortest notice. By a Letter from New-Jersey received Yesterday, I am informed that the Commander in Chief has dismissed all the militia, except fifteen Hundred for special reasons, which I suppose to be the State of the Supplies and to prevent the improper appearances of dropping off without orders added to the Expediency of their being at Home as much as possible that they may turn out when wanted, with more readiness. The Militia have obtained the highest Credit on this Occasion, every Body speaks in Terms of Commendation concerning them.

There remains no longer any Doubt of the Fate of Charlestown. Lt Colonel Ternant arrived Night before last with General Lincoln's Dispatches.² The whole material Substance is published by the Enemy at New-York, and will be found in the inclosed Paper, which doubtless your Excellency will have been informed of before this reaches you. The Numbers are exaggerated, but every Thing else is pretty exact. It appears that every idle Excuse and unfair Contrivance has been used to detain Mr. Ternant, and as to the vessel stipulated to General Lincoln, and in which he comes himself, we have heard nothing of it. Honour and Faith has, I apprehend, been committed in Order to keep us in Uncertainty. But this is not unusual with the Enemy. Whatever Particulars have not yet been communicated will be published as soon as possible officially.

It remains now that we make the best of this Disaster, and I am of opinion, that instead of being a Detriment when considered on the general Scale, by proper Attention, we may turn it to Benefit. Deeply is to be regretted the Loss of a meritorious General, a brave Garrison and a large Supply of Stores; but if this arouses us to double Exertions, the Effect will be in our Favour finally. Providence has always appeared most eminently in our Favour, and we have ever exerted ourselves with most Spirit when pressed with Losses and Difficulties, and it is reasonably to be hoped this will soon be repaired.

Mr. Woodruff returns to-day. We have procured from the Board of War a Ton of Powder, five Cwt of it Cannon Powder, and also twenty Reams of Cartridge Paper. The publick stores cannot supply us, at this Time, with Lead, but if I am not mistaken we have a tolerable supply on Hand, as much as is equivalent to our Powder with this addition. We have also, I think, Cannon Shot and Flannel for making up the Cannon Cartridges. Besides this the Board of War

have sent to the Army a very large Quantity of fixed Ammunition out of which they have directed a Supply to the Militia. This was on request from Head-Quarters. The Board of war seem disposed to give any Thing to our Militia that they have and can possibly spare from the Army, observing very truly that it is the same general Object. It is earnestly to be wished that great Care may be taken both in securing and in the Consumption of military Stores, for they are imported with great Risque, Difficulty and Expense, and the State must without Doubt account in Settlement for them.

The County of Gloucester, a little before the Attack on Red-bank in 1777 lent the Garrison at that Place twelve Cwt of Powder, and upwards of thirteen Cwt of Lead. The Powder was repaid two Days ago, and the Lead will also as soon as the State of the Stores will admit. This helps along, though it is not the general Property of the State.

I scarcely think any Descent of Magnitude will be made in Monmouth unless a large Number of the Troops have returned from the Southward. It is difficult to decide what Proportion of their Troops they will send back to New-York. Many Circumstances invite them to push Operations in the Carolinas and Georgia, though this last is probably all at their Command already; nor do I think of any Thing that would bring them back at present but the Expectation of a French Fleet, orders received from Europe or the discouraging Summer Climate of the South. A short Time will probably decide and much depends upon it. General Gates is ordered to take the Command in the Southern Department.³

I hope your Excellency's Family has removed, it is certainly dangerous they should remain in the Enemy's reach, however they may have escaped hitherto.

A Council of Safety Bill, or Something of that Nature I think indispensable, and hope the Provision necessary for the Crisis will be made before the Legislature rises.

I have the Honour to be, your Excellency's obedt Servant
Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Gov. William Livingston's June 11 request for additional militia from Pennsylvania to reinforce Washington's army was referred the following day, on the motion of Abraham Clark, to the delegates of Pennsylvania to be communicated to the president and council of the state. According to the minutes of the Pennsylvania Council, delegates John Armstrong, Timothy Matlack, and James Searle attended its proceedings the same day and were informed that a number of units of Pennsylvania militia would be held in readiness to support the Continental Army. See *JCC*, 17:502-3, 505-6; and *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:386.

² See Samuel Holten's Diary, June 14-15, 1780, note 1.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 13 and 16, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir,

Philadelphia June 16. 1780

Since my Letter of the 13th Instant Congress have passed the Acts enclosed of the 14th & 16th Instant.¹

By the latter you will be informed that Brigadier General Weedon, and Colo Morgan are again called into Service in the southern Department, under your Direction.²

By the former you will observe thirty thousand Dollars are advanced to defray your Expences &c (which the Board of War will forward), and that Warrants are issued on the States of Virginia & North Carolina for 100,000 Dolars each, towards furnishing a military Chest for the southern Army. That you are authorized to call on the southern States from Virginia inclusive for Aids of the Militia & Supplies, and also to appoint a Deputy Adjutant General, Deputy Paymaster General, & all other Staff Officers necessary in the southern Department. The Measures to be adopted for the Defence of the southern States are left to your Discretion.

Since passing the enclosed Act of the 14th Instant I have received Information, that Mr Clay the Deputy Paymaster in the southern Department was not made prisoner in Charles town, and that he has Warrants on Virginia & North Carolina to a large Amount, which it is supposed in whole or in part yet remain unpaid. You will doubtless obtain certain Information on these Matters (which were unknown to Congress) and perhaps find it practicable & expedient to retain Mr Clay in the Office of Deputy Paymaster.

You will also receive enclosed triplicate Copies of an Act of Congress of the 14th Instant, which, you will please to transmit, or not, to either, or all the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, & Georgia as from the Circumstances of those States shall appear most expedient.

I have only to add, that the Board of War will take all Measures in their Power that shall be deemed necessary for your Support, and will give you the necessary Information of their Proceedings from Time to Time.³

I have the Honour to be, with every Sentiment of Esteem & respect, sir, your most hbble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (NH: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See JCC, 17:510-11, 518-19.

² Huntington's letter to George Weedon transmitting this resolve, which is in the Myers Collection, NN, is dated June 16, although the presidential letterbook copy (endorsed "The like to Colo D. Morgan") is dated June 18. PCC, item 15, fol. 32. He sent the same resolve to General Washington with a brief covering note on June 18. Washington Papers, DLC.

³ Two letters to Gates from the Board of War of June 15 and one of June 16 are in the Gates Papers, NH.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir, Philadelphia June 16. 1780

I am honored with your Despatches under the 9th Instant, and have laid them before Congress. They are referred to the Board of War & Committee on the Post Office. Due Attention will be given to the several matters contained in those Despatches.¹

Enclosed your Excellency will receive an Act of Congress of the 14th Instant authorizing Genl. Gates to call on the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the more southern States for Aids of Militia & Supplies &c and recommending to those several States to give every Assistance in their Power to carry into Execution such Measures as Genl Gates shall judge most proper.²

I have the Honour to be, with very great respect, your Excellency's most humble servt,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (Vi: Continental Congress Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:517; and Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:425-27.

² *JCC*, 17:510-11.

Robert R. Livingston to Philip Schuyler

Dear Sir Philadelphia 16th June 1780

The loss of Charlestown & the wants of the army have occasioned a general alarm here, from which I promise myself such exertions as will make us rise superior to the dangers which threaten us. A few days ago Mr. Meredith & Grason being at table with us we went largely into the state of our supplies, when I happened to drop a wish that the Merchants of this place would undertake a temporary supply upon their own credit Congress countersecuring them. Grason pushed it, Meredith embraced it, & upon its being broke to the Merchants they appointed a committee to consider the proposition & I imagine upon good ground that they will undertake for four million of rations. Should this go thro' it may not only help to relieve our present necessities but put matters in such a train as we may find it convenient to keep them in.¹

As to what you observe upon the propriety of an expedition to Canada in case of N Y. being put out our reach I think it is at least in the present State of our affairs a very disputable point.² Should the enemy quit Charlestown with a weak garrison I shd. conceive that we might act with more advantage in that quarter—And thus reenstate our affairs & at least [. . .] the account of prisoners & success. From the measures of the enemy to the southward as far as we can learn them, it seems doubtful whether they do not mean to push

their conquests there & rely upon the strength of their navy at home for preventing the force from France from coming over, or for following them & extending their operations. They have advanced a party to Georgetown nor had any part of them embarked the 26 of May. All seems to be submission in South Carolina. Govr. Rutledge has dismiss'd his militia least they should be found in arms. But as far as I can understand North Carolina & Virginia begin to shew signs of life. If they rouse and shake themselves they will not fail to appear formidable to the enemy.

I am apprehensive for the post in the highlands, how are they commanded? Not I hope by Heath? Genl. Howe I have not the pleasure of much acquaintance with him. He by no means stands high with his countrymen. For God sake give some attention to this business, it is not less important than a supply of men or provisions.

I say nothing of the fair because as you inform me you have no time to think of them & I am much in the same predicament myself. Beside that most of those I love (perhaps I should have said esteem) are out of town. You will easily believe me when I assure you that I anxiously wish it were in my power to execute your commission but alas, Delaware flows between us. Condole for me with Mathews in the misfortune of his country, remember me to Mr. Peabody & at headquarters, I fear [I] should not be able to hold out much longer here and I am, Yours, with the most sincerity & regard,

Robt. R. Livingston³

RC (NN: Schuyler Papers).

¹ For further information on the Philadelphia merchants' plan for provisioning the army and Schuyler's response, see James Duane to Schuyler, this date, and Schuyler to Washington, June 18, 1780.

² For Schuyler's observations on prospects for an invasion of Canada, see Schuyler to Livingston, May 30, 1780.

³ Livingston also wrote the following brief letter this day to his brother John at Clermont.

"I wrote to you not long since & have nothing to add but my wishes to see you here as soon as possible. Mr. Morris told me that you had half ruined him by drawing upon him for £4000 when he was in no situation to advance the money, he has got the Bill holders to wait for payment. He says your ship has exceeded all his calculations. I wish you may neglect nothing necessary to ensure her success as much of your mercantile reputation will depend upon it. I wish you would send my map or any other of the great patent & I must if possible dispose of a part of it to support myself here & pay my extravagant taxes. Money is uncommonly scarce here & goods very plenty & daily arriving. I enclose the papers. Remember me to the family & believe me to be affectionately, Your Brother, Robt R. Livingston." bMS Am 1649.5, MH-H.

New York Delegates to George Clinton

Sir,

Philadelphia, 16th June 1780.

We do ourselves the honour to enclose the last resolution of Con-

gress relative to the New Hampshire Grants.¹ We sincerely wish it had been in our power to proceed at an earlier day, but an exparte hearing would have been of little use to us. And to have pushed it with too much warmth would have answered no other purpose than to expose us to the censure of wishing to take advantage of our antagonists, especially as New Hampshire which has hitherto gone with us, threw its whole weight against us.

The loss of Charlestown, & the great scarcity of supplies has rendered our situation extreamly critical, and calls for the utmost exertion. Congress have endeavoured to rouse this by every means in their power, particularly by a circular Letter which you will receive with this.² We feel for the situation of our state, threatned on one side & actually invaded on another. We submit it to the judgment of the Legislature whether they should not continue sitting till the storm is overblown.

We conceive that not a moment should be lost in sending forward the bill for the adoption of the resolution of Congress of the 18 of March last as considerable advantage may be derived both to the state & the continent from the sums that may be procured by the exchange of their bills.³ And as the preparing them is a matter which will take some time, & those who send on their laws are to have the preferance, expedition becomes an object of some moment.

We have no account from the southward of the enimies having yet embarked any part of their force; they have detatched a body of them as far as Georgetown. The people of South Carolina will give them little opposition, tho' we have great hopes that the approach of the enemy will rouse N. Carolina to the exertions of which she is fully capable. We forgot to mention, that it would be proper to send up with our law, the name of some person who is to sign on the part of Congress that we may recommend him so that no time may be lost on that account. This we presume will be the Loan officer but it may be well to have a second in case of accidents. We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect your Excellency's Most Obt. Hum. Serv'ts,

Robt. R. Livingston,

Jno. Morin Scott,

Jas. Duane.

P.S. The Secretary informs us that the Resolutions above refered to are already dispatched.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:837-38. Addressed: "His Excellency Gov'r Clinton; to be opened in his absence by the Hon'ble P. Van Courtland, Esqur., Leiut. Gov'r." RC (N: Clinton Papers). Charred.

¹ The delegates inclosed Congress' June 9 resolution postponing hearings on the New Hampshire Grants controversy until September. See *JCC*, 17:499; and Samuel Huntington to Thomas Chittenden; June 10, 1780.

² See Samuel Huntington to Certain States, June 15, 1780.

⁵ Clinton subsequently sent a copy of the New York act implementing Congress' March 18 fiscal resolutions with a June 21 letter that was read in Congress on June 29. See *JCC*, 17:572; and *PCC*, item 67, 2:266-67.

Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene

In committee of Congress, Morristown,
June 17th, 1780

Sir,

We enclose you an extract from our letter to Congress, of the 5 inst. which will serve to shew you what has been done by us on the subject of your letter of this day.¹ We are, Sir, with much esteem,
Your obedient servant,

Philip Schuyler,²

John Mathews,

Nathl. Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ Greene had inquired about "measures taken by you for procuring Tents," for which see *PCC*, item 155, 1:295-98. For the committee's earlier request for "a quantity of Duck, sufficient for the Tents which are deficient" and Congress' June 13 response, see Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, June 5; and Huntington to the Committee, June 15, 1780, note 3.

On June 18 the committee sent Greene a copy of the June 13 orders which it had just received, for which see *PCC*, item 39, 2:87. The same day the committee also ordered Commissary General of Issues Charles Stewart to report "the number of rations issued and to whom for the month of May." *PCC*, item 11, p. 261.

² Although Schuyler's name appears on this document, he was actually in Philadelphia at this time, for which see Schuyler to Huntington, this date.

Samuel Holten's Diary

June 17. [1780]

Saturday. I recd. a letter from the honl. Mr. Peabody,¹ by Genl. Schuyler. James Lovell² sit out for Boston. No news.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ See Nathaniel Peabody to Holten, June 14, 1780.

² That is, the son of Massachusetts delegate James Lovell.

Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington

Sir

Philadelphia June 17th 1780

I have the honor to Inclose Your Excellency the draft of a System

Agreed upon by the Committee with the army for conducting the Quarter Master Generals department, together with Copy of a letter from the Commander In Chief on the Subject.¹ The amendment to the Committees Original draft which the General has taken notice of in his letter will be found in the 18th page of the Copy.

The Committee was perfectly In Sentiment with the General on the necessity of putting the Department In full activity without the least delay, and would have ventured on It without a reference to Congress had they conceived themselves authorized to have determined on the pay to the Officers.

The System for the Commissary Generals department has been prepared some time since,² and would have been transmitted to Congress but that the Committee wished for a previous conference with Colo. Blaine, who was expected at Head Quarters by the first of this month but has not appeared.

Yesterday I had the honor of a Conference with both branches of the New Jersey legislature on the Subject of Supplies; They Inform me that the state is nearly exhausted of the Article of flour—that they will however make every exertion to procure what can Still be spared. They have engaged to take Immediate Measures for the transportation of Seventeen hundred Barrels of flour to West point & the Army, which has been detained at Trenton for want of Carriages.

I have the honor to be with great Respect and Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedient Humble Servant, Ph. Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 153).

¹ Schuyler's letter and the enclosed draft of the reorganization plan were presented to Congress this day and assigned on June 19 to a committee of five, chaired by Schuyler, which reported on June 30. After considerable debate, a heavily revised version of the plan was adopted on July 15. See *JCC*, 17:522-23, 528, 579-80, 587, 607-8, 615-34. For an appraisal of the new regulatory plan, which led to Nathanael Greene's resignation as Quartermaster General, see Erna Risch, *Supplying Washington's Army* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1981), pp. 55-58.

The enclosed letter from Washington "on this subject," one of June 13 to the committee at headquarters, was also sent to Congress with the committee's letter to Huntington of June 16.

² It is not clear whether the committee's "System" was ever presented to Congress, but for a November 30 report of the Board of War reorganizing the commissary department, see *JCC*, 18:1109-11.

John Walker to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir,

Philada. June 17th. 1780

Your Favor of the 9th Ult.¹ I rec'd with pleasure, and shall always be glad to hear from you when leisure & Inclination occur.

For business I refer you to our public Letter.² The propositions

contained in yours to the President,³ will I doubt not, be immediately comply'd with. Business in Congress goes on better than I expected, each Member appearing willing to contribute all in his power to the good of the whole. This State is making Exertions worthy of imitation. The Merchants have lately subscribed a sum, which is thought sufficient to fill up their Continental Line, & have moreover advanced £200,000 Sterling upon Loan, to supply the Army with provisions in which they have lately been very deficient for want of Cash. This Patriotic fire 'tis to be hoped will spread both North & South.

My Family is perfectly recovered of the small-pox, but we are all unwell perhaps occasioned by our change of Life & want of Exercise. Our affectionate wishes attend you all. Adieu. Jn. Walker

[P.S.] Please present my respectful Comps to the Gentlemen of your board.

RC (DLC: Jefferson Papers). Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:454-55.

¹ Not found.

² This letter of the Virginia delegates to the assembly has not been found.

³ Jefferson's June 9 letter to Samuel Huntington was read in Congress on June 16, for which see *JCC*, 17:517; and Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:425-27. For the president's reply, see Huntington to Jefferson, June 16, 1780.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia June 18th. 1780.

When I had the honour to write your Excellency from Morristown,¹ I wished our Publick affairs, to wear a more Pleasing aspect, before I wrote you again. Which moment hath in some measure arived; tho far from being so promising as I could wish. The heart felt distress, for the salvation of our Country; hath been visible in the Countenance of all her true Friends. Char[l]estown with all the shiping & stores in the hands of the Enemy, Seven General officers, and near one Quarter part of our Continental Troops; Prisoners of War. General Kniphausen in Jersey, at the head of a Superiour Army, to General Washington, endeavouring to force his way to Morristown: where were all the Artilery and stores of the Army, and not one publick Horse to move them. General Clinton hourly expected, and that West point would be his object, in which there was not one pound of provision. Our Army in Jersey only fed from day to day, the Militia could not be called to the field for want of Provisions. This was the Situation of our publick affairs untill within a few days. At present every friend to their Country, both Male & Female appear to be roused (in this part of the Country) either upon the principals of Honour, virtue, or danger, to make an Common defence, which you will see by the inclosed papers, to which I beg liberty to refer

you. And I can assure your Excellency that the publick measures they contain are real. And I flatter my self the state of Rhode Island according to her ability will not be behind the foremost in adopting every patriotick measure tending to promote our common defence. We have, at present a promising aspect of the Armys being supplied with provision by the Exertion that are making in the states we have heard from. Congress do not entertain a doubt of the New England states exerting themselves. I flatter my self your Excellency met the General Assembly possessed with every sentiment necessary for carrying into immediate execution every requisition of Congress and their Committee at Head Quarters. How far they have adopted them I wish to be informed.² It is agreed on all hands the whole state of S. Carolina hath submitted to British Government as well as Georgia. And I shall not be surprized to hear N. Carolina hath followed their example. In a word we have but little to expect South of Mariland, the once patriotick state of Virginia weighs but little at present in the scale of Defence, Or furnishing of men or Supplies, her whole attention is ingrosed in making sale of her out lands. The little state of Rhode Island hath loaned more money to the Continent then every state south of this. Which will I apprehend cause a great difficulty in liquidateing the Loan office Certificates. I have moved in Congress for a warrant in favour of the state for the money due on the state accompt. It is refered to the Treasury Board they have not reported and I fear they will not soon.³ The demands on the Continental Treasury is Twenty times as much as they at present can pay. But you may rest assured nothing on my part shall be left undone to obtain the warrant. At the same time as a Friend to and a Member of the state I must beg they will pay no more money on Continental accompt than is absolutely necessary for the salvation of the Country. I fore see so many unthought of difficulties in the Settlement of those Accompts that I fear the state will be a great sufferer in what is paid already. It is impossible for Congress at present to enter upon Commercial affairs therefore I have made no Motion in consequence of the Instruction I receivd from the Council of War,⁴ but I find that by the desire of Congress our minister at the Court France had the 11th & 12th articles of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce expunged; & Both Nations left to lay what duties they pleased for which we may thank our Brethern in the Southern states. The different policy, of the several states and two many of them turning all their views to their own advantage without consulting the Common good, Cause some able Politicians to think that our Political Salvation, in a great measure depends on a controuling power, over the whole, being lodged in some person or persons. I wish to have your Excellencys Sentiments upon this subject, before the matter is taken up in Congress which I think will be soon, as the Union is too much dissolved in some of our Sister States, what ever [your] sentiments may be will

be my line of Conduct [. . .] I fear the ability of the state to carry the sever[al] propo[sitions] into execution. I hope nothing will be [neglected?] that is probable. You may rest asured if our Indep[endence] is established N. England must do their full proport[ion] as there is not that unanimity, in the southern states, th[at I cou]ld wish. There is many more circumstances [to c]ommunicate to you but having already sp[un this] letter to a great length and perhaps been more pa[rticular] than some may think necessary, but when I know it is the wish of my Constituents I shall endeavour to gratify them in a more particular manner.

I have the honour to be your Excellency's most obedient Humble
 Servant, Ezekiel Cornell

NB Congress have ordered five Thousand Militia from Virginia and the Same Number from N. Carolina to be immediately Imbodied and repair to the Southward under the Command of Genl Gates to reinforce the Continental Troops under the Command of Genl Smallwood.⁵ The Enemy yet remain in Jersey.

RC (R—Ar: Letters to Governors); Tr (Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 294-96). RC damaged; missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ See Cornell to Greene, May 30, 1780.

² For Greene's July 22 response, see Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 296-97.

³ See Cornell to William Greene, August 15, 1780.

⁴ The instructions of the Rhode Island Council of War, which exercised authority when the General Assembly was not in session, are not known. See Bartlett, *Records of R.I.*, 9:68, 73-74.

⁵ Congress took this action to reinforce the southern army on June 17. *JCC*, 17:523-24.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

Philadelphia June 18th. 1780

I have been honoured with your Excellencys two letters by Brown with the Act of Assembly requesting the monies advanced to forward provisions in the Quarter master department might be reimbursed, which was readily complied with,¹ Mr Ellsworth will forward the Warrant by Brown agreeable to your Excellency's desire.

The other matter respecting the payment of debts due for beef in the Commissaries department is attended with more difficulty, the perplexing difficulty is want of money. Your letter on that Subject is referd to a Special Committee, who have not reported. I hope the result of their Report may in Some measure answer the purpose.

Congress have appointed Commissioners with proper powers from the Board of Treasury to repair to different States as Occasion may

require and in Conjunction with others to be appointed by the Supreme Executive of such States to Settle accounts.²

I have long been of Opinion this mode was necessary & was happy to See it Adopted. Hope that Some One or more of the Commissioners may be Soon Ordered to Connecticut to Settle Accounts in the late Commissary Wadsworth's department and others that may be properly Settled there.

The Enemy lately made an Incursion in the Jerseys, attended with their usual burning and devastation and from the last accounts were encamped at and near Elizabethtown-point, and it is mistifying to find Genl. Washington hath not an Army Sufficient to remove them. The Speedy filling up the Continental Army appears of absolute necessity.

I have the honour to be, with every Sentiment of Esteem, your Excellency's hum. Servt. Sam Huntington

P.S. Mr. Sherman Arrivd last night.

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ Trumbull's two letters to President Huntington of June 8 are in PCC, item 66, 2:55-62. They were read in Congress on June 15. *JCC*, 17:514-15.

² For Congress' creation on June 12 of additional commissioners of accounts, "to repair to such posts or places as the public service may from time to time require," see *JCC*, 17:504. Two commissioners, Joseph Bullock and Jonathan Burrall, were appointed to these new posts on June 16, immediately after Congress appointed Peter Fell and George Measam to similar positions in the chamber of accounts previously vacated by Eleazar McComb and Nathaniel Mumford. *JCC*, 17:521-22.

Huntington sent notice of these appointments to Bullock, Burrall, Fell, and Measam under cover of brief letters of this date. PCC, item 15, fol. 34.

He did not, however, send Trumbull a text of Congress' June 12 resolve until July 5, when he wrote the following brief covering note to him. "Enclosed your Excellency will receive a Copy of an Act of the 12th Ulto, mentioned in my former Letter appointing extra Chambers of Accounts, to settle public Accounts in distant Posts & Places as Occasion may require." Trumbull Papers, Ct.

Samuel Huntington to Meshech Weare

Sir

Philadelphia June 18th. 1780

By the Acts of Congress of the 16th instant herewith enclosd you will be informd, that Nicholas Gillman and John Taylor Gillman Esqr are appointed Commissioners on the part of the United States; either of them to Indorse the bills that Shall be Emittted by the State of New Hampshire pursuant to the Resolution of Congress of the 18th of March last.¹

You will please to observe the Same Bills are to be Indorsd but by One Commissioner Altho' two are appointed to avoid delay in Case

of the Death or Inability of one, and it may be convenient for one to Indorse all the bills if practicable, without difficulty.

I have the honour to be, with Esteem & respect, your humble
Servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ For this appointment of the Gilmans, see *JCC*, 17:521.

Philip Schuyler to George Washington

My Dear Sir,

Philadelphia June 18th 1780

On my way hither¹ I found at Trenton fifteen hundred Barrels of flour and learnt two hundred more were at Borden town, the whole detained for want of Carriages. I requested an audience of both branches of the legislature which they readily Granted, urged the necessity of their Immediate attention to provide the means of transporting the flour to the army, Kings ferry or New Windsor, and to procure whatever they could within the State and to forward It without delay. I dwelt on the danger the states were exposed to from the greatly reduced State of the Army, pointed at the extra-expencc Occassioned by the necessity of frequently drawing to and detaining the Militia in the field, Observed how heavy that service must Inevitably fall on the States In the vicinity of the Enemys main post unless the Army was Effectually and Speedily reinforced, Remarked that altho we had abundant resources yet If every state would depend that others should take the lead nothing would be done and ruin to all must be the Consequence; and added every Argument which occured to Impel them to Instantaneous Exertions. I obtained Explicit promises that they would without a moments delay procure Carriages to Convey the flour there as I had requested—that they would take measures to Collect all that could possibly be spared from the Inhabitants, which they apprehended was not any Considerable quantity—That the Completion of their line would Claim their unremitted Attention—And that they would In every Instance and with great alacrity Comply with the requisitions which had been made of them, as far as they were in condition to furnish the Supplies. On my arrival here I waited on Mr. President Reed and entered into a full and minute discussion of our Affairs, and decidedly declared, that unless the States paid Stricter Attention to the requisitions of Congress than had hitherto been done by any of them, and furnished the Supplies allotted to them to provide that the Contest could not be maintained, that disgrace and ruin must ensue. He appeared Alarmed, promised Every thing should be done that depended on him, but I could not draw forth any Assurances that the requisitions

made from this State would be complied with. Indeed I fear we shall not receive them, I mean thro the Authority of the State. The Merchants are however roused. Mr Robert Morris is at the head of an Association for the purpose of furnishing the Army with three Millions of rations, for which the public is to reimburse them as soon as their finances will admit.² They have yesterday sent on five hundred barrels of Flour which is to be transported by Carriages to be hired by Mr. Meredith and another Gentleman from Trenton to Kings Ferry or Windsor. Reflecting how Exceedingly your Excellency is pressed with business I have taken the liberty to advise the board of war to desire Gen. Howe to keep a number of boats constantly at Kings Ferry to Convey the flour from thence as fast as It arrives, and that the Officer commanding at that post Should turn the Carriages by King wood to Windsor If the approach of an Enemy should render the rout to Kings ferry unsafe.

Congress who are eternally penelopyzing have directed that no Corn should be sent to this Quarter from Virginia, unless the Governor of that State Judges that It can be spared from the Southern army. I have Observed to the Virginia Gentlemen now here that In the present Scarcity of forrage to the Northward, and which will Increase until the Rye harvest, It will be Impracticable to put any Considerable army In motion, unless Virginia Sends us Sixty thousand Bushells, they have promised to recommend It to Governor Jefferson.³

Gen. Gates is directed by Congress to take the Command to the Southward. The Enemy have penetrated Into North Carolina where they fell on Colo. Beaufort⁴ with the remainder of the Virginia Line which they have dispersed or cut to pieces, avises say only Seven have Escaped of which the Colonel is one. The Militia men collecting in Virginia & North Carolina are moving on to Join Gen. De Kalb.

Permitt me to Intreat the favor of one of the Gentlemen to forward the Inclosed, I beg my respect to all of them.

I am, Dear Sir, Most Affectionately and Sincerely, Your Excellencys Obedient Servant,

Ph. Schuyler

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Schuyler had just returned to Philadelphia to present the committee at headquarters' plan for reforming the quartermaster department to Congress, for which see Schuyler to Samuel Huntington, June 17, 1780.

² With the growing inability of the Pennsylvania state government to continue sending men and provisions to the Continental army, the Philadelphia mercantile community galvanized in early June to raise funds by subscription for recruitment. Under the leadership of Robert Morris a second plan was adopted for raising £300,000 to capitalize a bank that would purchase three million rations and 300 hogsheads of rum for the army. With more than 90 subscribers pledging the required amount in a short period, Morris was able to send 500 barrels of flour to Washington immediately. On June 21 a congressional committee was appointed to "confer with the inspectors and directors" of the bank and the following day Congress agreed to reimburse those who

pledged capital. See *JCC*, 17:542, 548-50; and Robert L. Brunhouse, *The Counter-Revolution in Pennsylvania, 1776-1790* (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1942), p. 86.

³ No letter from the Virginia delegates to Jefferson containing this recommendation has been found.

⁴ That is, Col. Abraham Buford whose 3rd Virginia Regiment was annihilated by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton at the battle of Waxhaws, S.C., on May 29.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 19th. 1780

Sir,

We received your favor of the 15th Inst. inclosing two acts of Congress of the 12th and 13th Inst. which will be duely attended to.

We inclose you a Copy of Genl. Washington's letter to us of this day and of our circular letter to the several States from New Hampshire to Virginia inclusive,¹ for the information of Congress.

We have the Honor to be, with the highest respect, yr. Excys most Obedt. servts.

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Mathews and signed by Mathews and Peabody.

¹ See the following entry.

Committee at Headquarters to the States

In Committee of Congress, Morris Town
Circular, No. 5
June 19th., 1780.

Sir,

We inclose you a copy of General Washingtons letter to us of this day.¹ We have in our former letters dwelt so forcibly on the several matters contained in the generals letter, that it is now become almost unnecessary for us to say any thing more on *them*. But when we consider the season for operation wears fast away; the small force we now have in the field, being still fed in a scanty and uncertain manner, the hourly expectation of the fleet and Army of our Ally, on our coast, And that the Commander in Chief, as well as ourselves, are as yet totally uninformed what are to be our expectations on the subject of our former letters; Be assured, Sir, we feel an anxiety congenial with his, you will therefore, we are persuaded, pardon us for being thus solicitous, when we again intreat you in the most earnest, in the most urgent manner, to use every exertion in your power to engage your state, to a speedy and decisive compliance

with our former requisitions. The two points we would wish to impress most forcibly on yours, and the minds of the legislature of your state, are immediately forwarding your quota of troops, necessary to complete your batalions in the Continental Army, and of supplies of provision agreeable to the estimates inclosed you in our letter of the 2d Instant, at the same time, we would not wish you to consider *any part* of our former requisitions as become in the least degree unnecessary; on the contrary, we are more strongly convinced that they are already as small as the important objects in view, can possibly admit of; we only mention the two first as the most *immediately*, and *indispensibly* necessary, for *reinforced* as the enemy now are, by the return of their troops from the reduction of Charles Town, we momentarily expect an attack will be made on our weak and almost resistless Army; Should this event happen whilst in this state, we seriously dread the result.

From the well known indefatigable attention of your state to the welfare of the United States, we cannot entertain a doubt of its exertions, at this interesting conjuncture, and we most earnestly intreat you to give us the earliest information of the final determination of your state, on the subject of this, and our former letters.²

We are Sir, with the highest respect, Your most Obedt. Servants,

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Directed to the 10 northernmost states.

¹ Washington's June 19 letter informing the committee of "the indispensable necessity of writing again to the different States" concerning the men and provisions to be supplied for the ensuing campaign, is in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:31-32.

² The committee's letterbook contains a further paragraph directed "To the State of Pensylvania." "We take the liberty of again calling your attention to the urgent necessity of forwarding the flour to West Point. The reasons for this pressing call are fully contained in our public letter of the second instant, to which we beg leave to refer you."

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr.

Philadelphia June 19th. 1780

I received your letter of the 27th of May the day before yesterday, and this day laid the same before Congress. It was referred to a Committee who are to report thereon.¹

Although the requisition was by Several of the members in the Course of the debate allowed to be just, yet all but the delegates of Massachusetts Bay opposed it being granted at Present on account of the Critical situation we are in for Want of money to feed the

army. I urged that by a resolution of Congress Massachusetts Bay had been allowed to Retain two millions of their quota of taxes on account of the Penobscot expedition²—and that the same line of Conduct ought to be observed with regard to us as to them, but the minds of Congress are so intirely occupied with the distresses of the army as to render them inattentive to the Voice of reason and justice, and therefore it will bee some time I fear before any thing will bee done to effect.

In the Course of the next week I expect to procure our quota of the new emission of money to be forwarded to Hartford in Connecticut by Oliver Ellsworth Esqr. who lives in Hartford and is a delegate of that State, and if I Can will agree with him to transmit it from thence to our State. Inclosed is a resolution of Congress appointing Nicholas Gilman Esqr and John Taylor Gilman Commissioners on the Part of the United States to endorse the bills that shall be emitted by our State Pursuant to the resolution of Congress of the 18th of March last,³ and also a letter from the auditor general to me by which it will appear that Credit is now given to our State for the two Hundred thousand dollars which had been omitted and in which Mr. Gilman is urged to keep the accounts of money Recd. as taxes, and that Recd on loan intirely Separate. You will be Pleased to Communicate the auditors letter to Mr. Gilman.

I am Sr. with Sentiments of Esteem and Respect your most obt.
Humble Servant, Nathl. Folsom

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ *JCC*, 17:527. Weare's May 27 letter to the New Hampshire delegates is in PCC, item 64, fols. 110-11. For Congress' rejection of New Hampshire's appeal to retain a portion of her Continental taxes to pay for the loss of the state's brig *Hampden* at Penobscot and offset large advances already made on Continental account, see Samuel Huntington to Weare, June 24, 1780.

² For this resolution, see *JCC*, 16:339-42.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Weare, June 18, 1780.

Georgia Delegates to Whom it May Concern

Philadelphia, 19 June, 1780

We do certify that Mordecai Sheftall, esquire, was appointed and acted as Commissary-General of Issues, in and for the State of Georgia, on and from the twenty eight day of July, one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy-eight; And that he was in the execution of that office on the twenty-ninth day of December, in the same Year, when the British Troops took Savannah in Georgia, and him prisoner.¹

Geo Walton

Edwd Telfair

W Few

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78). Written by Walton and signed by Walton, Few, and Telfair. Endorsed by Benjamin Lincoln: "June 27 1780. Mordecai Sheftall Esqr in the list of prisoners which was given me, after the surrender of Savannah was returned as Dy. Commissary Genl of Issues."

¹ The Georgia delegates provided Sheftall, who was then in Philadelphia, with this certificate to help verify his service as deputy commissary general of issues for Georgia even though Congress had not confirmed his appointment in 1778. His claim for two years pay and subsistence was honored on July 28 when he received \$7,682 from the paymaster general, but his far more complicated request for reimbursement for monies advanced to the army in the southern department in 1778 was delayed by confusion in his accounts. It was not until December 1, after Sheftall pleaded "distressed Circumstances" from "a Long and painful Captivity," that Congress voted an additional \$20,000 as part of the "considerable balance due to him." For Sheftall's claims, see *JCC*, 12:1069-70, 17:572-73, 592, 749, 18:825, 846, 854, 955, 1069-70, 1074, 1079, 1112-13; and *PCC*, item 41, 9:117-18, item 78, 20:621-41.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 19, 1780]

19. Monday. I recd. a letter from Dr. Brown, Honl Mr. Partridge & the Honl. Mr Adams, by order of the Council notifying me of my appointment to a seat in the honl. Council.¹

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Holten reported his acceptance of his election to the Massachusetts Council in the following brief June 20 letter to Samuel Adams, who served as secretary of the council.

"Yesterday I was honored with yours of the 1st instant by direction of the Major part of the Council; and please to acquaint their Honors that I shall return and take my seat at the Board as soon as I can with propriety considering my engagements here." Adams Papers, NN.

See also Holten to John Avery, June 20, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir,

Philada. 19 June 1780

Permit me to introduce to Your Excellency's Notice the Bearer Resolve Smith, Esqr one of the Commissioners of the Chambers of Accounts at the Treasury.¹ He is a Native of New-Jersey; left it early in Life, and has been brought up in the British Navy; was at the Commencement of the present Contest Secretary to Govr. Morris of St. Vincents; suffered much for the decided Part he took in Favour of his Native Country; at length atcheived his way to it and is at present on a visit to his Friends and to have an Opportunity, if necessary, to give his personal assistance in Arms in the Critical Situation

of the State. Your Excellency will find him a Gentleman of Merit and Information.

I have the Honour to be, Sir, your very obedt hble Servant,
Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Resolve Smith had been elected a "commissioner of accounts at the treasury office" at the time of the treasury's reorganization in September 1778, and soon thereafter was appointed one of the commissioners of the newly created chamber of accounts. See *JCC*, 12:967, 1096; and Jennings B. Sanders, *Evolution of the Executive Departments of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1935), pp. 65-66.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen, Philadelphia June 19. 1780

You will receive enclosed a Letter from Ebenezer Hazard, which Congress have referred to the Committee at Head Quarters.¹

It has been suggested by some that an Head Quarter Postmaster is unnecessary, that all Letters for Head Quarters might be left in the Quarter Master Generals Office, and the Expence of a Postmaster at Head Quarters wholly saved. Every one sees the Necessity of retrenching Expences as far as possible.

You Gentlemen will be under proper Advantage to judge what is necessary and best to be done in this Matter which is referred to you.

I have the Honour to be, with the highest Respect, Gentlemen,
your most humble servant, Sam Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:518. The enclosed June 7 letter from Hazard to Postmaster Richard Bache (PCC, item 39, 2:118), explained that John Durham Alvey had recently inquired about the salary and allowances due him if he accepted appointment as "Head Quarter Post Master," explaining in detail the complications involved in compensating a postmaster attached to the army. For letters from Alvey to Hazard and post office surveyor James Bryson discussing various issues related to this subject, see PCC, item 78, 1:365-80. Additional references to Alvey's career as "postmaster with the main army," are in *JCC*, 22:80, 92, 121, 24:229, 315-16.

Samuel Huntington to John Lawrence

Sir Philadelphia June 19th. 1780

Necessity obliges me to draw upon you for one thousand dollars

in favour of Jesse Brown which you will please to pay to him it being monies this day borrowd of him.

I am also Under the necessity to request your kind office that Twenty pounds in hard money or the value in Continental bills may be advanced to me & sent forward by Brown on his next return to Philadelphia, I Should much prefer the hard money if to be obtaind.

In my present Situation it would be out of Character for me to request any advances out of the Continental Treasury for which reason I have never done it; Indeed I think it would be much better if none of the Delegates receivd any money out of the Continental Treasury for their Support while attending Congress & hope Such a regulation will Soon take place. My particular Situation at present that necessity Compells me to make this request to appear with that decency which is necessary to discharge my duty and not dishonour the State who have been pleased to Order my Services here.

I have the honour to be with Sentiments of Esteem and Respect,
Your humble Servant, Saml Huntington¹

RC (CtHi: Hoadley Collection). Addressed: "Treasurer Lawrence."

¹ This day Huntington also wrote the following letter to Eleazer Wales, "commissioner of accounts at Albany." "By the Act of Congress herewith enclosed you will be informed your resignation is accepted, and that the Consideration of your Pay is postponed until General Provision shall be made relieving against the Effects of Depreciation." See *JCC*, 17:513, 19:402; and *PCC*, item 15, fol. 37, where the letter is erroneously addressed "Mr Ebenezer Wales."

John Walker to Unknown

Dear Sir, Philada. June 18th [*i.e.* 19th] 1780¹

Your favr. by Express I rec'd yesterday, that being Sunday nothing could be done in it. I am now going Strait to the Board of War, where Mr. St. Laurence's Business will, no doubt, be immediately done & he dispatched.

The Enemy are still inactive at Elizabeth Town, but the extreme weakness of Genl Washington, leads us to fear they will not long remain so. The people of this Country are roused to more than Roman Exertions. They are recruiting & feeding the Army at their private expence. Should this glorious Example expend itself & become general, America will be invincible, but these are trying times.

You inform me my Father is gon to the Mouth of Ohio. What can have call'd him there? It will give me pleasure to hear from you when ever Leisure & Inclination occur. I am, Dear Sir, Your obedt. huml Servt
Jn. Walker

RC (NjP: De Coppet Collection). Endorsed: "John Walker Esqr., 19th June 1780."

¹ This letter was undoubtedly written on Monday, June 19, a conclusion supported by both the endorsement and the first two sentences of the letter.

Committee at Headquarters to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 20. 1780

Since we did ourselves the honor of addressing your Excellency in our Circular letter of yesterday inclosing Copy of a letter of the same date from the Commander in Cheif, He has thought proper to direct Brigadier General Parsons to repair to your state in order to Collect, arrange, and forward the drafts & recruits from thence to the Army, as you will be advised by the inclosed Copy.

General Parsons is fully acquainted with the numbers, Situation and wants of our army, and the indispensible necessity for the states immediately filling their Continental Regiments to the number of five hundred & four Rank & file agreeable to the Generals proposal, and of forwarding the quota of Militia and supplies allotted to the states, agreeable to the requisitions of this Committee.

We therefore most earnestly request your Excellency to pay the earliest attention to his representation on these important subjects, and to give him every aid in your power to effect the matters committed to his charge by the Commander in Chief.¹

We have the honor to be, With respect & Esteem, Your Most Obt. Humble. servts.

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody²

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). Written by Mathews and signed by Mathews and Peabody.

¹ For Washington's June 20 letters to the committee, to Samuel Holden Parsons, and to Trumbull, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:38, 42-45.

² Mathews and Peabody also wrote a brief letter on June 21 to Ephraim Blaine, commissary general of purchases, requesting a number of articles needed "for the use of this Committee," and listing sugar, coffee, chocolate, "milk Bisquet," tea, mustard, pepper, vinegar, "Oyl," and "One Quarter Cask of maderia Wine. . . , One Barrel of good spirits & One Barrel of Rum." PCC, item 39, 2:61.

Samuel Holten to John Avery

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia June 20th. 1780.

Your favor of the 1st inst. has been recd.¹

I forwarded a number of blank commissions, &c by the last post;² the reasons of my not sending them before was because the form

has been altered & it took some time to git them printed, & not from any inattention to your request.

You was so kind as to inform me that I was appointed to a Seat in Council; And the Boston papers Announced my being returned with Colo. Hutchinson to represent the Town of Danvers but my letters from my correspondence there do not mention it, neither have you in your letter; Therefore I wish to know whither that is the case.

I took notice of the Honble. Mr. Gills compliments & please to return him the like salute; And let him know that I consider it will add to the Honor & pleasure of a seat at the board to be favored with his company.

It gave me sensible pleasure to see Genl. Ward here yet, I felt some disappointment in Mr. Adams's not accompanying him,³ as I intend to sit out soon after his arrival.

For the public intelligence, I beg leave to refer you to the printed paper.

I am, with sincere respect, your most obedient

P.S. In the Boston papers I took notice of the arrangement of the Honl. Board in which I had not the place that I formerly was honored with; I wish to know whither it was done by order of the Board, but I am inclined to suppose it might be thro' inattention when the list was sent to the printer, Yours ut supra

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ John Avery's June 1 letter notifying Holten of his election to the Massachusetts Council is in the Holten Papers, DLC. This reply was drafted by Holten on the bottom and verso of Avery's letter.

² In his June 1 letter Avery had repeated his request for "a Number of Blank commissions for Privateers."

³ Samuel Adams, en route to Philadelphia, was this day in Hartford, Conn., where he and Elbridge Gerry wrote joint letters to Gen. John Fellows, Gen. Robert Howe, and the Massachusetts Council calling for General Fellows to march his Massachusetts militia brigade to West Point. Adams and Gerry also wrote to Fellows and Howe the next day, June 21, on the same subject. The letters are printed in Adams, *Writings* (Cushing), 4:191-96.

Samuel Holten to Jeremiah Sheldon

Friend Jere.

Phila. June 20th. 1780.

Yesterday I was notified of my being appointed to a seat in the Honble. Council of Massachusetts and desiring I wou'd take my seat accordingly; Therefore I have returned an answer by this post that I shall return & take my seat as soon as I can with propriety.¹

So that you may see I shall sit out as soon as I can after you return, but two things you must mind, one is your own health not to worry yourself but proceed with great moderation, The other is to take

the best care of my horses, for if they shou'd be poor when you return, I can't sit out, but must wait here till they recover which will be a great disappointment. I depend upon your buying me one horse, and I shall not take it amiss if you buy me another before you git to this City if you can make such a bargain as you think will do. I repeat it again do not hurry, the horses will walk 15 miles in a day & that is full enough this hot weather, & the middle of the days you can feed them; if you buy me a saddle let it be a good one, but common stirrups will do as I shall put my brass ones on it.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ For his "answer," see Holten's diary, June 19, 1780, note. He did not, however, leave Philadelphia until August 2. See Holten to Mary Holten, July 28, 1780, note 2.

Charles Thomson to the States

Sir (Circular) Secretary's Office June 20th. 1780.

The commissions to private armed vessels of war were heretofore ordered to be attested by the Secretary of Congress, But upon establishing a board of Admiralty it was judged proper that they should issue from that board and be attested by their Secretary. Accordingly on the 2d of May last having made some alterations in the form of the commission, bond and instructions for commanders of private armed vessels of war, Congress passed the following resolutions.

"Resolved, That the Board of Admiralty be empowered and directed to cause to be printed so many copies of the said forms as they shall judge necessary.

"That the President transmit to the Governors or Presidents of the respective States so many copies of the said forms as the board of Admiralty shall advise."¹

You will therefore, please for the future to apply to the Board of Admiralty for the commissions, bonds &c which may be wanted in your State, and transmit to the said board the Bonds given by the commanders to be lodged in this office.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your Obedient humble Servt,
Chas Thomson

LB (DNA: PCC, item 18).

¹ For the May 2 resolves quoted here by Thomson, see *JCC*, 16:408-9. For Congress' decision the following month to transfer back to Thomson's office responsibility for issuing blank privateer commissions, see Thomson to the States, July 28, 1780.

John Hanson to Philip Thomas

Dr Doctr.

Philadelphia June 21st 1780

I wrote you by the post Fryday last¹—inclosed you have this days

paper. Intelligence from the Jerseys to day is that Clinton had arrived at New York with part of his Army from S Carolina. That he had sent two regiments over to Elizabeth Town point to reinforce the Army there and that it was Conjectured he would Immediately proceed up the north River against West Point. He seems to be acting with vigor, but all his Efforts I am persuaded will be ineffectual. Nothing but Exertion on our side was wanting And all ranks of people Seem now to be properly Annimated. The Jersey, York and Pensilvania Militia are turning out fast. The merchants and other Inhabitants of this Town (to their immortal honour be it spoken), have undertaken to Supply the Army With provisions, and rum for two months at their own present Expense and are sending it forward very fast. They have raised £300,000 hard money. They are hereafter to be refunded by Congress. This is a most Seasonable assistance and will give time to lay in proper Supplis by the time the two months are expired. A patriotic flame is Kindled too Amongst the Ladys. They have raised £200,000 for the encouragement of the officers & Soldiers in the Continental Army, which is to be deposited in the hands of Mrs. Reed the Presidents Lady, to be by her delivered to Mrs. Washington, to be put into the hands of the General. A Delegate to Congress from N. Carolina arrived here last night.² He says that General Cornwallace with 5200 men with some field peices is making a rapid March through S. Carolina, that he had defeated Colo. Beaufort who Commanded about 300 men, near Camden, had Killed and taken about 170, that he was expected to penetrate into N. Carolina but that 4000 of the Militia of that State had embodied & with the assistance of the Virginians and the regular troops belonging to the Maryland and Delaware line, they should be able to give a good Account of them which God grant. I think I mentioned to you in my last that General Gates was appointed to take the Command of the Southern Army and that General Weedon and Colo Morgan were ordered into that service. My love to Janey, and am, yrs. &c.

J.H.

RC (MdHi: Hanson Letters).

¹ Dr. Philip Thomas (1747-1815) of Frederick, Md., a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, 1777-78, was married to Hanson's daughter Jane. This letter is the first of some 50 surviving letters Hanson wrote to his son-in-law while attending Congress, but his letter "by the post Fryday last" has not been found.

² That is, Willie Jones.

Samuel Holten to George Partridge

Dear Sir.

Philada June 21st. 1780.

Your favor of the 5th instant came to hand at a lucky moment,

Mr. Livingston was making inquiry in Congress whether the members could inform the house what their states where doing at this alarming crises; Therefore I asked leave to read in my place such parts of your letter as were to the point¹ & I am sure it did honor to the State; and you may be assured that I consider the Courts proceedings to be a work of necessity & therefore has my full approbation 'tho' done on the Sabbath.

That part of your letter which you desired me to speak to the Treasury about, I have caused an Extract to be laid before them.²

There has been nothing done about the certificates Since you left us, but I expect there will be soon, as there is a report lately Bro't in.³ Mr. Laurens is expected here in a few days; Congress have lately instructed Mr Adams to proceed to Holland upon the same business Mr Laurens is charged with, But if Mr. Adams shou'd think it is necessary for him to continue in France Mr Dana is to proceed to Holland with the same powers.

As to the prospects of a loan in Spain I can inform you nothing more than I consider you possessed of, By the last intelligence from Mr. Jay We had reason to expect he would be kindly recd. at that Court, but he had not then been acknowledged there in his public character.

I have not heard that any state to the Southward of Pennsylvania has come into the new system of finance but I believe they will as I am very sure Congress will insist upon it.

Mr. Ellwoth informs me you may have the new bills next week. Connecticut & New Hampshire has had a number.

Exchange here I understand is 58 & 60.

It is said Sir Harry has returned from the southward & is about moving up the north river to take possession of our posts there. The late letters from Genl. Washington are as pressing as words can express for assistance both of men & provisions; Do my Dr. Sir endeavour to impress upon the minds of the honble. Court that they have not a moments time to lose in affording the General every Assistance in their powers; I can't Suppose the States will leave that worthy man to fall before our cruel enemies for want of their support.

I can't enlarge the bearer is near siting out.

I am my worthy friend, with sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Holten must have interjected Partridge's June 5 letter on June 17, when Robert R. Livingston's motion directing the states to inform Congress about steps taken to provide provisions was adopted, but it is not mentioned in the journals. *JCC*, 17:525.

² "I have the honor of enclosing an extract of a letter from one of my colleagues," Holten wrote to the Board of Treasury this day, "by which you'll perceive he is desirous you shou'd be made acquainted with the contents." Holten Papers, DLC. The "contents" of this extract from Partridge's June 5 letter have not been discovered.

³ The report on a scale of depreciation for Continental loan office certificates was "bro't in" on June 20. For the context of the debate on this issue and Congress' adoption of a scale of depreciation for these certificates on June 28, see Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, June 27, 1780, note 1.

William Churchill Houston to Moore Furman

Dear Sir,¹

Philada 21st June 1780

Congress yesterday granted a Warrant in Favour of the Quarter Master General's Department for three Hundred Thousand Dollars from the Treasury. This Sum is all appropriated to the Post of Trenton for forwarding Provisions.² As it will be very insufficient, but still do Something, which your utmost Prudence and Discretion may be exercized in applying it, so that a Part may not be discontented because others are served and they passed by. As all cannot be paid from it, great Attention will be necessary to prevent it's doing Hurt. I hope the State will give every Assistance with Teams from different Parts of the Country, so that not a Barrel of Provisions may be suffered to loiter an Hour at Trenton.

West-point being the Place to which I suppose a large Quantity will go, it will be necessary that Guards attend the Convoys through the Clove and those Parts where the Refugees and Parties of the Enemy frequent, and have often done Mischief by intercepting and plundering; to this it may be proper to call the attention of those whose Business it is to give Orders. This occurs to me, and therefore I suggest it, though doubtless it will not escape the Recollection of those concerned to prevent it. Not a Moment ought to be lost, our Route to the Highlands may soon be cut off and in this Event, Transportation must be sent round by a long Detour.

I am in much Haste, your very obedt Servant,

Wm. Churchill Houston

RC (Nj: Stryker Collection). Addressed: "Moore Furman, Esq., Trenton."

¹ Moore Furman (1728-1808), merchant of Philadelphia and Trenton, served as a deputy quartermaster general, 1778-80. Moore Furman, *The Letters of Moore Furman, Deputy Quarter-Master General of New Jersey in the Revolution* (New York: New Jersey Society of the Colonial Dames of America, 1912), pp. vii-xi.

² JCC, 17:532.

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir,

Philadelphia June 21. 1780

The enclosed Acts of Congress of the 17th & 19th Instant, will inform you of the Measures they have taken for Your Support in the southern Department.¹

I cannot but hope, that those States, on whom the Execution of several of these resolves depends, will vigorously exert themselves, as their own immediate Interest added to that of the Union is peculiarly concerned.

There hath not been Time Since the Passing of these Acts to learn Genl Washington's Sentiments respecting the Infantry of Major Lee's Corps.

I have the honour to be, with very great respect, Sir, your most obedt servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (NH: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:523-24, 527-28. Huntington also sent copies of the enclosed resolves to governors Thomas Jefferson and Abner Nash this day, exhorting Virginia and North Carolina to vigorous compliance with these congressional requests to support Gates. See *PCC*, item 15, fols. 39-40; and Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:457.

Samuel Huntington to John Rutledge

Sir Philada June 21. 1780

By the Act of Congress herewith enclosed your Excellency will be informed, that the Board of Treasury, until the further Order of Congress are authorized to accept such Bills as you shall draw for the Purposes mentioned in the Act, in the Manner therein expressed. This Measure is adopted, pursuant to your Application, from the Necessity of the Case; But as you will now be informed that Genl Gates is appointed to take Command in the southern Department, and Measures are adopted to supply the military Chest in that Department, this Necessity will cease in future.¹

I have the honor to be &c &c, S.H.

LB (DNA: *PCC*, item 15).

¹ For the enclosed June 20 resolve, see *JCC*, 17:533.

Samuel Huntington to the States

Sir, Circular. Philadelphia June 21. 1780

Congress have at different Periods recommended Measures which they deemed essentially necessary for the public Good.

They now request of those States which have not made returns to Congress of their Transactions in that respect the most expeditious Information of the Measures they have taken in Consequence of the several resolutions, a List of which is annexed to the enclosed Act of the 17th Instant.¹

I have the honor to be &c &c, S.H.²

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ For “the enclosed Act of the 17th,” see *JCC* 17:525. For the annexed “List” of congressional resolutions adopted since January 1, 1779, requesting “men, money and provisions” from the states, see *JCC*, 13:298-99, 14:626, 15:1050-51, 1147-50, 1158-59, 1371-72, 16:150-51, 196-200, 262-66, 17:437-38, 442. The list was drawn by Secretary Charles Thomson from the journals for March 9, May 21, September 13, October 6, 7, 9, and December 11, 1779, and February 9, 25, March 18, May 19, 20, 1780.

The responses of the states to this appeal varied widely as in the past, but most of the difficulties encountered in attempting to comply with these resolves can be seen in the elaborate responses returned in July by Gov. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia and Pres. Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania, in Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:508-13; and *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:458-68.

² To his letter to Gov. William Livingston of New Jersey, Huntington added the postscript “Your Excellency’s Favour of the 20 hath been duly received and communicated to Congress.” State Papers, Nj.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 21 1780

I have the honour to transmit your Excellency the enclosed Acts of Congress of the 17th & 19th Instant, pointing out the different Measures they have taken for the Support of the southern Army.¹

Congress cannot but hope that the Measures they have taken, if executed with Punctuality and Despatch, will change the Face of Affairs in that Country.

It is submitted to your Excellency, whether it may not be proper that the Infantry of Major Lee’s Corps proceed to join the southern Army.

I have been honored with your Despatches of the 18th Instant, which were immediately laid before Congress, and also communicated to President Reed.²

I have the Honour to be, with every Sentiment of respect, your Excellency’s most obedt servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:523-24, 527-28.

² *JCC*, 17:531. In his letter of June 18, Washington explained that he had just learned of the return to New York of Sir Henry Clinton with a substantial fleet and army from South Carolina, and discussed the “very alarming” situation he consequently now faced. He therefore requested Congress to renew its appeals to the states to accelerate preparations in support of the Continental Army, and he particularly entreated that Pennsylvania be urged “to forward the drafts, they have already made. . . [and] to redouble their exertions for procuring supplies of provisions and furnishing the means of transportation.” PCC, item 152, 8:603-6; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:26-28.

Joseph Jones to George Washington

Dear Sr.

[June 21? 1780]¹

I have your favour of the 31st ult² in answer to my several Letters and was then impressed with and still feel great anxiety on account of our public affairs. The present distress is to be ascribed in great part to the resolution not to issue any more Bills of Credit before a sufficiency of money was provided and supplies secured for the army. Had proper precaution been taken in these matters, and the new scheme of Finance been ready for the public consideration, the determination not to increase the quantity of money and the alteration introduced by the new System would not have been so sensibly felt or occasioned the distress in the several Departments they have produced. From these I think we are nearly emerging as the new money is coming into use in the several States and will probably greatly relieve us. But by these and several other proceedings Congress have been gradually surrendering or throwing upon the several States the exercise of powers they should have retained and to their utmost have exercised themselves—untill at length they have scarce a power left but such as concerns foreign Transactions, for as to the Army the Congress is at present little more than the Medium through which the wants of the Army are conveyed to the States. This Body never had or at least in few instances have exercised powers adequate to the purpose of War And such as they had, have been from embarrassment and difficulties frittered away to the States and it will be found I fear very difficult to recover them. A Resolution passed the other day desiring the States to inform us what they had done upon certain requisitions for some time past that we might know what we had to rely on.³ This may probably serve as a Basis for assuming powers should the answers afford an opening. Other resolutions are now before us⁴ by one of them the States are desired to give express powers for calling forth men provisions money for carrying on the war for the common defence—others go to the assumption of them immediately—the first I have no doubt will pass this Body but will I expect sleep with the States, the others I believe will dye where they are—for so cautious are some of offending the States in this respect a Gentleman the other day plainly told us, [upon?] a proposition to order some armed vessells to search the vessells going out to prevent the exportation of Flour, that if an Embargo was laid in the Delaware as in this State he consented to the measure, otherwise he never wd. agree to such exercise of power.

The Merchant Bankers in this city are making generous exertions to procure and send forward to the Army a Supply of Flour and will afford us great help in that article.⁵ The Massachusetts Delegates read us Letters whereby it appears their State have raised 4000 Men for the Army and are embodying 4000 more to be ready if wanting.⁶

Gates, Weedon and Morgan are ordered to the Southern Department. 5000 Militia are required from Virginia to join that Army and 3000 to be held in readiness—from No. Carolina 4000 and two thousand to be held in readiness—2500 of the Virginia Militia were to march yesterday.⁷ By our accounts it would seem that States are somewhat roused from their slumber, but have rejected the Scheme of Finance of the 18th March last wch. I fear will have a bad effect on the Credit of the money of the other States that have agreed to the measure.⁸ Governor Jefferson has transmitted us a State of the Virginia Troops taken from the last returns by wch. it appears we have in the different Corps 4011 men in Service to the 30th Sept. & for the War or longer period than the 30th Sept. next, including those captured in Charles Town. This surprises me but the fact appears to be so and where they are or what has become of them is strange. I cannot inform you whether our Legislature have ordered a Draught to fill up the deficiencies as we have no Mail this week from the Southward it stoping at Annapolis for want of a Rider to bring it to this place, the Late Rider having quited the Business.⁹ With great esteem I am, Dr. Sr., Yr. obt. hum. Servt,

Jos. Jones

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Although this letter is not dated, the contents indicate that it was written on or about June 21, 1780. See note 4 below.

² For Washington's May 31 letter to Jones, in which he expressed his conviction "that unless Congress speaks in a more decisive tone; unless they are vested with powers by the several States competent to the great purposes of War, or assume them as matter of right. . . our Cause is lost," see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:452-54.

³ For this June 17 resolution, see Samuel Huntington to the States, June 21, 1780.

⁴ For the resolutions "now before us," which were contained in a committee report that was submitted and adopted on June 21, see *JCC*, 17:538-40.

⁵ See Philip Schuyler to Washington, June 18, 1780, note 2.

⁶ The reading of these letters was not recorded in the journals.

⁷ See *JCC*, 17:518-19, 523-24; and Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 16 and 21, 1780.

⁸ For Virginia's subsequent decision to comply with "the scheme of Finance of the 18th March last," see Jones to Thomas Jefferson, June 30; and Huntington to Jefferson, August 4, 1780.

⁹ For the problems of gathering intelligence and establishing a line of expresses from the south, see Jefferson to Huntington and to Washington, June 9 and 11 respectively, in Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:426, 432-33.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir,

Philada June 22, 1780

I have the honor to transmit you an Act of Congress of the 21st

Instant, by which you will observe that they behold with Pleasure the Zeal & Solicitude of the Minister of France to advance the mutual Interest of his most Christian Majesty and these United States; and will also be further informed of their repeated Exertions to put their Forces in a Condition, effectually to co-operate with those of our illustrious Ally; and although from the Nature & Constitution of the several Governments, Preparation cannot be made with that Expedition which were to be desired, you may be assured Sir that no Endeavours will be wanting on the Part of Congress to call forth the military resources of the Country with all possible Dispatch.¹

I have the honor to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Although he had received assurances in January that the states were prepared to wage a vigorous campaign in 1780 and would be able to provide support for the French forces that were enroute to America to cooperate with Washington's army, La Luzerne was apprehensive that Congress could not live up to its pledge. He had therefore sent Congress a reminder of its pledge on June 18, hinting that promises to reinforce Washington remained unfulfilled and that prospects for effective cooperation with the anticipated French squadron were dim. *JCC*, 17:527; and *PCC*, item 95, 1:100-107. His letter has been printed in *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:334-35, and a translation of it in Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 8:803-5.

La Luzerne's appeal was referred to committee on June 19, and on June 21 Congress adopted the committee's recommendations to assure him that they had used "every means in their power to fulfil their engagements of January last," and that renewed appeals to the states would be immediately delivered to ensure that plans previously made would be fulfilled. For the enclosed "Act" of the 21st and Congress' renewed appeal to the states therein promised, see *JCC*, 17:538-40; and the following entry.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir, Circular. Philadelphia June 22. 1780

You will herewith receive an Act of Congress of the 21st Instant, which will no doubt be duly attended to.¹

Those Parts of the Act in particular that relate to giving Information to Congress & their Committee at Head Quarters it is most earnestly requested may be attended to with the utmost Expedition & Punctuality.

The Time is come when we may expect the Arrival of the Forces of our Ally, and the Plan of Operation ought to be completely formed, & ready to communicate upon their Arrival, which cannot be done without proper & certain Information of the Number of Forces, Quantity of Supplies &c which the States will furnish.

Under these Circumstances you will easily perceive, that Congress & the Commander in Chief are placed in a most painful Situation, and that the Interest, Honour & Safety of the States are too much

effected to admit of the least Delay, or Neglect, of any & every Exertion which the present Situation of our public Affairs demand.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir, your obedt servant.
Sam. Huntington President

June 23. Since writing the foregoing I have received a Letter from His Excy Genl Washington, an Extract of which is enclosed, together with an Act of Congress of this Day, by which you will be further informed, of the pressing Necessity of forwarding the Supplies of Men & Provisions with the utmost Expedition and the repeated request of Congress to transmit to them & their Committee at Head Quarters, the Proceedings of the state over which you have the honor to preside in such Manner that the Commander in Chief may rely, & be enabled to regulate his future Operations thereon.²

I have the honor to be &c, Sam. Huntington President

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "To the States from New Hampshire to Maryland inclusive."

¹ See *JCC*, 17:538-40; and the preceding entry.

² For Washington's June 20 appeal to Congress for an immediate delivery of provisions and supplies from the states, see *JCC*, 17:551; PCC, item 152, 8:615-18; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:34-38.

Robert R. Livingston to George Washington

Dear Sir

Trentown 22d June 1780

My anxiety for the supplies of the army have brought me to this place in order that I might satisfy myself as to the quantity on hand, & the means of forwarding them. Genl. Nox has communicated to me your Excellencys orders on this subject. Nothing short of this would I am fully persuaded be of sufficient force to produce the desired effect—And knowledge of them will in a great measure render the execution of them unnecessary—impressed with this Idea, I have been long labouring to bring Congress to assume the power which will enable them to call forth the resources of the States but unhappily without effect.¹ However I hope much from their pressing & reiterated demands. What principally induced me to trouble your Excellency at this time is an apprehension which I, in common with many other gentlemen, entertain of the propriety of leaving the command at West point in the Hands of Genl. Howe.² Having no personal acquaintance with him I can have no prejudices. But the Gent. from the Southward by no means speake so favourably of him as I could wish. But independent of this I conceive that as he has yet had no opportunity of acquiring a military character—that Confidence which is so necessary to inspire courage especially in militia will I

fear be wanting in him. I might presume so far I shd. beg leave to submit it to yr Excellency whether this post might not be most safely confided to Genl. Arnold whose courage is undoubted—who is the favourite of our militia, & who will agree perfectly with our Govr. Your Excellency will not consider this as designed to convey the most disreflection on Genl. Howe, of whom I know nothing but by report which may very possibly be ill grounded. But if the most distant doubt remains in a matter of so much moment I conceive it should be removed. I make no other appology for the liberty I take than the motive that suggests it—which has before now induced your Excellency to pardon an interference in matters to which I was no [more?] competent than the present. This hasty letter is written while the express waits whom I am unwilling to detain longer than while I declare the extream respect & esteem with which I am Your Excellencys Most Obt Hum. Servt,

Robt R Livingston

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Livingston's efforts "to bring Congress to assume the power. . . to call forth the resources of the States" can also be seen in his work on the committee appointed on June 19 to respond to a memorial from the chevalier de La Luzerne concerning America's ability to wage a vigorous campaign in 1780 as previously pledged. The committee's report, which is in Livingston's hand and was adopted on June 21, exhorted the states to grant their officials powers adequate for responding effectively to congressional requisitions. *JCC* 17:527, 538-40. A somewhat similar report on "increasing the powers of Congress" may also have been drafted by Livingston at about this same time, although it is undated and was printed in *JCC* by Gaillard Hunt, without explanation, with the proceedings of Congress for October 3, 1780. For this report, see *PCC*, item 24, fols. 13-14; and *JCC*, 18:897.

² In his June 29 reply to Livingston, Washington stated that he was "under no apprehension *now* of danger to the Post at West point on the score either of Provisions, strength of the Works, or Garrison," but acknowledged Livingston's "apprehensions" over Robert Howe's fitness to command. However, since both Gens. Alexander McDougall and Baron Steuben were on hand with Howe, "and the Main Army is in supporting distance," Washington explained that there was no immediate need to replace him, although he was prepared to do so "when a general arrangement is gone into and a disposition made for the Campaign," as the change could then be effected without threatening officer morale. Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:90-92.

See also Philip Schuyler to Benedict Arnold, June 2, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to the States

In Committee of Congress
Sir, Circular, No. 6. Morris Town, June 23d. 1780.

Impressed with the necessity of giving you the earliest information of every important occurrence; We therefore inclose you a copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief, this moment received.¹

From the accumulated Distresses of our Army, which we are daily spectators of; The jeopardy we have twice seen them in, and the fatal

consequences that must have resulted from a defeat, (which would inevitably have been the consequence, had the enemy at first, and still will be, should they even now pursue their object) We are constrained, again to call on you in the most pressing manner, to forward your quota of men and supplies agreeable to our estimate of the 2d Instant, and prevent the total sacrifice of the few brave and intripied spirits that at present compose our Army, and avoid the indelible strain that must consequently be fixed on those states, should such an event take place. (Thus far Circular)

To the States of Pensylvania, and New Jersey.

That part of the Generals letter respecting the state of the stores here, is a matter of such pressing necessity, that we conceive it to be our duty to give the earliest attention to it. The situation of the magazines at this post, is truly deplorable, the enemy are certainly pushing at them, and we are in no condition to move them for want of teams. If they do not effect their purpos at this time, it is evident they mean to persist until the situation of our affairs renders it necessary for the remains of our Army to move from hence, when there will be no impediment to the execution of their plan. We therefore hope, Sir, you will enable the officers of the department to improve this interval so as to effect their removal to a place of greater safety, by having the teams which are requested of your state immediately sent forward.

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's, Most Obedt. Hble servts.

Jno. Mathews,
Nathl Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Directed to the 10 northernmost states.

¹ In the enclosed letter of June 23, Washington urged the committee to ask the governors of Pennsylvania and New Jersey to "bring out all the Waggon's they can" to prevent Continental stores from falling into the hands of the enemy, who "are now in full force bending their march towards Morris Town," and to ask all the states to "redouble their exertions to comply with the demands that have already been made upon them." See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:57-58.

This threat to Morristown had also led Mathews and Peabody, the previous evening, to request assistant deputy quartermaster Joseph Lewis "to give every assistance in your power to have the stores removed from this post to night." PCC, item 11, fol. 261.

Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir,

Philadelphia, June 23d. 1780.

I enclose for your Excellency's perusal the papers last published here.

The Enemy have gained some advantages to the Southward since

the surrender of Charlestown; but it is to be hoped from the exertions now making in North Carolina & Virginia that they will not be able to proceed much farther. The Enemy in Jersey remained on the 20th of this month inactive at Elisabeth Town point. It is certain a fleet has returned to New York from Charlestown & according to the best information yet obtained has brot. General Clinton & a considerable part of his Troops. It is said that Admiral Arbuthnot is also returned.

General Lincoln arived this day at Congress & has requested an enquiry into his conduct in the loss of Charlestown.¹

Mr. Lawrence having been prevented going to Holland, Mr. John Adams, or if inconvenient for him, Mr. Dana is authorised to transact the business there until Mr. Lawrence or some other appointed in his room shall arrive.

Your Excellency, I presume, has too perfect a knowledge of the State of the Army & too frequent representations of the publick exigencies from Congress, their Committee at camp, & the General, to leave in my power to add any thing on those subjects.

Mr. Huntington is nearly thro' the small pox & I hope will soon leave me at liberty to return home.²

I have the honor to be, with the highest Respect, Your Excellency's most obedt. humbl. Servt.
Oliver Ellsworth

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers).

¹ A letter from Gen. Benjamin Lincoln of June 22 requesting "an enquiry. . . into the causes of the loss of Charlestown" was read in Congress this day, whereupon General Washington was directed to conduct such an enquiry and to report the results to Congress. See *JCC*, 17:551-52; and *PCC*, item 158, fols. 443-45.

² Ellsworth probably set off from Philadelphia on July 1, the day he received "21 Bundles & 35 Sheets Making 318,500 dol[la]rs" of "blank Bills" to deliver to the Continental loan officer in Connecticut, John Lawrence. Ellsworth's memorandum of this transaction is in the Ellsworth Papers, MWA. His last recorded vote for this term in Congress was on June 28. *JCC*, 17:569.

Benjamin Huntington, who had taken his seat in Congress on June 1, had apparently just recently been inoculated for small pox and recovered quickly. In his accounts for attendance during 1780—"from May 22d to Novemr. 22d," including travel time—he carefully deducted "6 Days while sick of the Small Pox." Revolutionary War Collection, Ct.

Samuel Holten to William Story

Dear Sir

Phila June 23d 1780

Your favor of the 5th instant I recd. yesterday.

I attended to your application to Congress, & it was referred to the board of Treasury.¹ Congress are now settling a scale of depreciation & you may be assured that they intend to see justice done to all officers in their service, your taking the sum now due to you will as I apprehend be considered as part of your pay.

I am, Sir, with Sincere respect your most obedt.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ The May 29 memorial and a June 5, 1780, letter of William Story, clerk to the Eastern Navy Board, were read in Congress on June 22. The Board of Treasury recommended that no specific allowance for Story be made before "general rules shall be established by Congress, relieving against the effects of depreciation," and Congress accepted the report on June 26. See *JCC*, 17:544, 562-63; and *PCC*, item 41, 9:106-8, item 78, 20:511-12.

James Madison to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia June 23d 1780

Nothing material has taken place since my last. The fact is confirmed that Clinton has returned to N.Y. with part of the Southern army, and has joined Kniphausen. They are at present manoeuvring for purposes not absolutely known, but most probably in order to draw Genl Washington to an action in which they suppose he may be disabled to give the necessary co-operation to the french armament. Could they succeed in drawing him from his strong position, the result indeed ought to be exceedingly feared. He is weak in numbers beyond all suspicion, and under as great apprehension from famine as from the Enemy. Unless very speedy & extensive reinforcements are recvd. from the Eastern States which I believe are exerting themselves, the issue of the Campaign must be equally disgraceful to our Councils & disgustful to our Allies. Our greatest hopes of being able [to] feed them are founded on a patriotic scheme of the opulent Merchts. of this City who have already subscribed nearly £3,000,000 and will very soon complete that sum, the immediate object of which is to procure and transport to the Army 3,000,000 of rations¹ and 300 Hhds of rum. Congress for the support of this bank and for the security and indemnification of the Subscribers, have pledged the faith of the United States & agreed to deposit Bills of Exchange on Europe to the Amount of £150,000 Sterling, which are not however to be made use of unless other means of discharging this debt shd. be inadequate. With sincere regard I am Yr. Obt Servt,

J Madison Junr

RC (DLC: Madison Papers). Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:40-41.

¹ That is, £300,000 and three million rations. See Philip Schuyler to Washington, June 18, 1780, note 2.

Nathaniel Peabody to Samuel Huntington

Sir,

Morris Town June 23d 1780. 2 Ck. P. M.

The Commander in Chief has for Several days past, been extending

the left wing of our army toward the North, so as to prevent the Enemy from out flanking him with their Right.

This morning Early Genl Kniphausen with thirteen Regts. Consisting of about 5000 regular troops, exclusive of New levies, Advanced upon our Right, which was Commanded by Majr Genl Greene. The progress of the enemy was Slow, at least Six hours moving from the point to Springfield—did but little mischief on their march—when they arrived were Checked by The Spirited Conduct of a few Continentals and Some Militia who gave them So warm a reception They thought proper to halt—And burn every house except 2 or 3 in the Town of Springfield.¹

6 o Clock P.M. the Enemy retire to Eliza. Town. 11 o Ck Their main body are at the point below the Town.

24th. It is reported that Clinton is gone up the North river with all the force he Can make exclusive of Kniphausens Division And it is thought by Some he will Soon Join.

The loss of Kill'd & wounded on both Sides must be very Considerable.

Colo Angels & Colo. Datons Regts. have Suffered much. A Captn. Thompson of Col Lambs Regt. Killd. Further particulars I have not yet been able to obtain And have No doubt but Your Excellly will receive Authentic information of every important Circumstance, more Just and minute than is possible for me to Give at this time.

However Concluded, that even these imperfect hints might Not be disagreeable.

I have the honr. to be with perfect Esteem, Your Excelys Most obedt & very Huml Servt,
Nathl Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78).

¹ For this enemy attack, see also Peabody to Meshech Weare, June 24; and Washington's June 25 report to Congress in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:63–65.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 24. 1780.

Sir
We inclose you for the information of Congress, copies of the Commander in Chiefs letter to us of the 23d Inst. and of our circular letter, of the same date, to the several states from New Hampshire to Virga. inclusive.

Your Excellency will observe those to New Jersey & Pensylvania

have an additional clause in each agreeable to the request of the Commander in Chief.¹

We beg the favor of your Excellency to forward the Letters southward of Pensylvania And have the honor to be, With perfect Esteem,
Your Excellency's Most Obt. and very Humble servants,

Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Mathews and signed by Mathews and Peabody.

¹ See the committee's letter to the states of June 23, and the following entry.

Committee at Headquarters to George Washington

Sir,

In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 24, 1780

We received your favor of the 23 Inst. yesterday about four oClock. We paid an immediate attention to it, as appears by the inclosed letter to the States.¹

The Stores will be nearly all removed from hence this Evening, except such as are necessary for the detachment of the army at the Short hills.

We propose joining your Excellency as soon as Genl. Schuyler returns, whom we hourly expect.²

We are sir, with the highest respect & Esteem, yr. Excys. most Obed. serts.

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody³

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). Written by Peabody and signed by Peabody and Mathews.

¹ See Committee at Headquarters to the States, June 23, 1780.

² Washington had relocated his headquarters from Morristown to the area around Springfield, N.J., on June 7. To counter enemy maneuvering, however, he moved to Rockaway Bridge on June 22, to Whippany June 23, and to Ramapo on the 26th where he remained until July 1, finally establishing his headquarters for the month of July in Bergen County at the home of Col. Theunis Dey, Preakness, near Passaic Falls. Philip Schuyler did not arrive in Morristown until the evening of June 26, for which see Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:589. He then proceeded ahead of Mathews and Peabody the following day to join Washington at Ramapo where he wrote to the committee from Pompton, for which see Committee at Headquarters to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Josias Beall, June 28, 1780, note 2.

³ This day the Committee also sent to Nathanael Greene a letter that they had received "from the justices of this County. As we conceive it to be a matter immediately connected with your department, and altogether detached from ours, the Committee thought necessary to forward it to you." PCC, item 11, fol. 250.

Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council

Sir,

Philadelphia June 24. 1780

You will herewith receive an Act of Congress of the 20th Instant, wherein they request the general Court of Massachusetts Bay to discharge the Property of William Bingham Esqr from any Seizure or Attachments by which it may be held in the Suits mentioned in the Act;¹ upon the Navy Board at Boston giving such Security as the great & General Court shall judge proper to respond the Judgements that may be recovered against Mr. Bingham in the Suits above referred to.²

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect & Esteem, Sir,
your most humble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. Addressed: "The Honble The Presidt of Council of Mass. Bay."

¹ For the background of this case, involving the disposition of a prize of the Massachusetts privateer *Pilgrim* that had been taken into Martinique when Bingham was Continental agent on the island, see Huntington to the Massachusetts Legislature, November 30, 1779. Bingham had appealed to Congress on June 6 for relief from the attachment of his property in this Massachusetts case, arguing that Martinique authorities were fully competent to decide the disposition of the brig *Hope* and that appeals from any decision reached by them would fall solely within the jurisdiction of Congress and not the individual states. His memorial was read the same day and referred to the Committee for Foreign Affairs, whose recommendations were adopted by Congress on June 20, relieving Bingham of liability in the suit, pledging to defray all expenses incurred in his defense, and requesting Massachusetts to discharge his property from any attachments brought against him. See *JCC*, 17:490, 531, 533-34; and *PCC*, item 19, 1:347-48, item 41, 1:283-86. See also Huntington to the Marquis de Bouille, June 27, 1780.

² Huntington also enclosed a copy of Congress' June 20 resolves on this case in a letter to the commissioners of the Eastern Navy Board in Boston this date, directing them "to give such Security as the General Court in Massachusetts Bay shall require to respond the Judgements that may be recovered against Wm Bingham Esquire in Any Action or Suits brought against him as mentioned." *PCC*, item 15, fol. 44.

Samuel Huntington to John Rutledge and Richard Howly

Sir,

Philada June 24. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 23d Instant, designed to prevent any false & insidious reports that have been made in the southern States, and to assure the good People of south Carolina & Georgia that these United States will support and defend them as well as every other Part of the United States against the common Enemy.¹

I have the honor to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "Governor Rutledge. N.B. The like verbatim to Govr. Howley." Both men had recently taken refuge in Philadelphia in the aftermath of the fall of Charleston.

¹ Congress adopted the enclosed resolve in response to a warning received from South Carolina governor John Rutledge that "A Report is artfully circulated here, & currently believed that Great Britain will Offer America the Independance of all the States, except No & So. Carolina & Georgia—and perhaps even of No Carolina, & that such a proposition will be accepted." See *JCC*, 17:543, 554. The extract of Rutledge's letter that was referred to committee on June 22 is dated May 26, although it is endorsed and referred to in the journals by Secretary Charles Thomson as one of 24 May. PCC, item 20, 2:395-98.

The rumor that South Carolina and Georgia might be left to their own separate fates seems not to have gained much credence at this time, but for the revival of this fear the following winter, see the Georgia Delegates' "Observations," January 8, 1781.

Samuel Huntington to Meshech Weare

Sir, Philadelphia June 24, 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 23d Instant, by which you will be informed, that the pressing Exigencies of the United States will not admit of the least Deduction from the public revenue at present, but that due Attention will be paid to the Claims of New Hampshire whenever Circumstances will admit. Be assured Sir, it is from Necessity, & not from Choice, that Congress cannot comply with the request in your Letter of the 27th of May last.¹ With much Esteem & respect, I have the honor to be your hbble servt,
Sam Huntington President²

RC (Nh—Ar: Weare Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:553-54. Weare's "Letter of the 27th of May last" consisted of an instruction to New Hampshire delegates Nathaniel Folsom and Nathaniel Peabody to seek a postponement of the remittance of the state's Continental taxes in view of its large advances made on Continental account and Congress' recent acceptance of a similar appeal by Massachusetts to offset expenses incurred in the Penobscot expedition. For Folsom's submission of Weare's letter to Congress and his pessimistic appraisal of prospects for obtaining a favorable vote on the request, see Folsom to Weare, June 19, 1780.

² This day Huntington also wrote brief letters to William Ellery and Thomas Woodford notifying them of their election as commissioners of the Board of Admiralty, an appointment that Ellery immediately accepted but which Woodford declined. See *JCC*, 17:490, 497, 555, 558; and PCC, item 15, fols. 42, 44.

John Mathews to Thomas Bee

My Dear Bee Morris Town June 24. 1780
Blush! Blush! Ye American States at your tardy & infamous conduct,

in suffering the few brave & intrepid spirits, that at present compose your army, to be daily subject to the hazard of being sacrificed to the rascalments of a merciless enemy. The enemy advanced yesterday in great force (supposed to be 5000) under the Command of Knyphausen; as far as Springfield, burnt the whole of that pretty village except two or three houses. They were opposed by a few (about 700) of our brave fellows, with a few Militia. But when they had driven us as far as the short Hills, & our people took post there with a firm & resolute countenance, they did not think proper to attack us on this ground but immediately retreated. They once attempted to advance up to us, but whether they did not feel bold, or that they conceived there could be glory gained, by *Skivering* a handful of ragamuffins I won't undertake to say. But they certainly turn'd tail on us. I was down a part of the time, but did not stay long. I saw this last manuvre.

I am in great haste, yours most Affectly, Jno Mathews

[P.S.] The general's attention has been entirely engrossed by the perpetual state of our Military affairs that I have not had an opportunity of conversing with him on the subject of the exchange you mention.¹ But thus much I can tell you, that business is totally at an end for the present, and not the least prospect of its being revived till the end of the campaign. I will write you more fully on this subject as soon as I can. We expect to move from here tomorrow. We only wait Schuyler's arrival.² J.M.

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ For Washington's July 10 letter to Congress on the exchange of prisoners and Congress' response, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, August 9, 1780.

² For the "move from here tomorrow," see Committee at Headquarters to Washington, this date, note 2.

Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare

Sir, Morrystown 24th June 1780

Altho I have Scarce time to write a single word except what relates to official Transactions and of course am deprived the happiness of private correspondence, Yet when I reflect how various and uncertain common reports are with regard to matters and things And how agreeable it must be for you Sir and the rest of my friends to have early & direct intelligence of the momentous Manoeuvres & retrograde Manoeuvres of the Enemy Especially at this Critical Conjunction, Am Constrai'd to rob the Couch of a few dreary midnight moments, to give some imperfect hints relative to the late movements of the Enemy.

The Committee wrote you yesterday by their Circular letter inclosing Copy of a letter recd. from the Commander in Chief, but as the fate of the day was then undetermined nothing particular could be observed, except what was contained in his Exclys Letter affore alluded to.

For several days past Genl Washington had been extending the left wing of his Army several miles to the North—That the Enemy whose numbers Since the return of Sr. Harry with his Troops from the Southward, flushed with Conquest, are very Considerable, might not out flank him with their Right wing, so as to Cut off all communication from North to South, and in order also if possible to prevent them from getting possession up the North river.

Yesterday Early in the morning Genl. Kniphausen with 13 Regts Consisting of about 5,000 regular troops, exclusive of some Corps of New levies, advanced from Eliza. Town point, upon our Right wing Commanded by Majr. Genl. Greene.

The progress of the Enemy was Slow—At least Six hours moving from the point to Springfield which is about Eight miles—Did but little mischief on their march—When they arrived were checked by the Spirited Conduct of a few Continentals & some millitia, who gave them so warm a reception, they thought proper to halt—And began in their usual Heroic Humane manner to plunder, burn, kill and destroy, the defensless and almost deserted Town, and Continued till every house was Consumed except 2 or 3. At about Six Clock P.M. they returned toward Eliza. Town. At 11 Ck. they arrived at the point from whence they took their departure in the morning—and from which they had a bridge of boats across the River to Steatan Island. At one this morning they began their retreat over to the Island which they completed before it was light—it is said they have taken the boats apart which formed the bridge.

It is my opinion Clinton has, or, is about to make a rapid movement up the North river, And if Join'd by Genl Kniphausen his force Cannot be less than 12,000 regular Troops, perhaps more, and three or 4 thousand of levies. Time only can discover what may be the Consequences!!

The loss of kill'd & wounded on both Sides in the affair of Yesterday must be very Considerable, Col. Angel's R. Island Regt. & Col. Datons Regt have Suffered much—a Capt Thompson of Col. Lambs Regt. kill'd, regular returns not yet Recd.

I have the Honr. to be, with the highest Consideration of Esteem,
Your Honrs. most obedt And very Humbe Servt,

Nathl Peabody

P.S. Pray remember most respectfully to all friends. Tell them this is the only line of Correspondence in my power to write.

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia June 25. 1780

I am now to lay before your Excellency an Act of Congress of the 21st Instant by which you will be informed of the further Measures they have taken to obtain the necessary Information from Time to Time how far they may rely upon the several States for furnishing their several Quotas of Men, Money & Provisions called for by Congress or their Committee at Head Quarters.¹

Your Excellency will also receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 23d Instant, directing a Court of Enquiry as soon as Circumstances will admit respecting the Loss of Charlestown, and the Conduct of Major Genl Lincoln the late Commanding Officer in the southern Department; and the Proceedings of the Court of Enquiry to be laid before Congress.²

Also an Extract of a Letter from Genl. Lincoln of the 22d Instant relative to the Exchange of Prisoners, which is referred to your Excellency's Consideration.³

I have the Honour to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellency's humble servant,
 Sam. Huntington President

P.S. Your dispatches of the 20th & 25th instant have been duly received.⁴

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand with signature and postscript by Huntington. LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). RC damaged; missing words supplied from LB.

¹ The enclosed "Act of Congress of the 21st" actually consists of three resolutions exhorting the states to communicate more effectively with Congress and the Committee at Headquarters. See *JCC*, 17:539-40.

² *JCC*, 17:551-52.

³ Lincoln actually wrote two letters on June 22. The one from which this brief extract was taken is in PCC, item 158, fols. 439-42.

⁴ These letters are in PCC, item 152, 8:615-18, 623-26, and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:34-38, 63-65. The former was read in Congress on June 23; the latter on June 29, which underscores the fact that Huntington added this postscript and dispatched the document several days after beginning it. This anomaly is probably related to the fact that the letter, according to Washington's acknowledgment of it, was delivered by General Lincoln. See *JCC*, 17:551, 571; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:127.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadelphia June 26th. 1780

This morning the president of Congress, received a Letter from Mr Peabody one of our Committee at headquarters, dated the 23d advising that General Washington for Several days past has been

extending the left wing of His Army toward the north, So as to prevent the Enemy from out flanking him with their right. The morning of the 23d General Kniphausen with thirteen Regiments, Consisting of about 5000 regulars—exclusive of new Levies, marchd from Elizabeth Town point, their progress was Slow, at least six hours moveing to Springfield. They advanced on the Right of our Army, which was Commanded by Major General Green, but a few Continentals and some Militia, gave them so warm a reception, that they thought proper to halt and after burning all the Houses in the Town of Springfield, except two or three, retired again to Elizabeth Town point the same day. The loss of Killed and Wounded on both sides is very Considerable, a particular Accout is not yet Come to hand. It is reported that Clinton is gone up the north River with all the force he Can muster exclusive of Kniphausens Division, and it is thought he will soon join. the object West Point.

A General embargo is laid here on all vessels except those belonging to the French. The Delaware State has also adopted the measure, And it is to be wished that Maryland would do the same.¹ At a time when an Army is in such want of provisions and a prospect of Short Crops, every Step ought to be taken to prevent any from going out of the country.

By a vessel Just Arrived from Cadis Intelligence is received that a Spanish fleet of 12 Ships of the line & 8 frigates And a great number of Transports had Sailed from Cadis for the West Indias Supposed against Jamaica.

With perfect respect and Esteem I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most Obedient Servt,

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ Delaware had just reported its willingness to continue the embargo on provisions “until the twentieth day of October next,” a decision made in response to a request from Congress, for which see *JCC*, 17:558; and Samuel Huntington to Caesar Rodney, June 14, 1780, note 2. Maryland’s commitment to maintaining the embargo in force had not recently been called into question, but for evidence that its extension of the embargo beyond September 10 was conditional upon a similar commitment from Delaware and Pennsylvania, see the council’s August 26 letter to the Maryland delegates, in *Md. Archives*, 43:266-67.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia June 27th. 1780

I do my self the honour to write your Excellency—tho, at the same time I am almost ready to beleive my letters are not agreeable, As I have not received one line since I left the state.

Congress have taken up and settled the scale of depreciation upon which the Loan office Certificates are to be paid off, till those baring

date on or before the first day of Sepr. 1777 are upon par with Silver and Gold, those dated March the 1st 1778 at one & three quarters, those on the 1st of Sepr. 1778 four for one, those on the first of March 1779 Ten for one, those on the first of Sepr. 1779 Eighteen for one, those on the Eighteenth of March 1780 Forty for one, And from period to period in Geometrical proportion. This business hath taken up much time in Congress occasioned by the different interest in the states and individuals concerned, bad as it may be thought to be by some, it is the best that could be obtained.¹ It was become absolutely necessary to establish publick credit upon some basis, Otherwise from appearance the Army will disband and our Country be lost. The embarements of our publick measures are beyond discription owing to the want of money.

The merchants in this City offered Congress that they would supply the Army with 3,000,000 of Rations of provisions and Three hundred Hogsheads of Rum delivered in Camp, to be paid for in Six months with Interest at Six per cent per Annum. The offer is accepted,² the Merchants have subscribed a fund of £300,000 hard Money and are Sending the provisions forward, which I trust will give a momentary relief, At the same time it is to be hoped no one state will fail to exert themselves in forwarding their quotas of Supplies, As the Enemy build their greatest hopes on our not being able to feed an Army sufficient to look them in the face.

I have little incouragment that I shall be able to obtain any money on the States accompt. Massachusetts & N. Hampshire have since applied in the same manner but have as yet not been able to obtain any.³ I wish some one of my Coleagues may arive soon, the State of Rhode Island is now the only State in the Union, that is represented by only one member, I shall be soon out of cash, the expense of Board in this place is beyond discription.

Mr. Ellery is appointed One of the Commissioners of the Board of Admiralty.⁴ He hath also informed me that the General assembly Resolved (some time since) that toom stones should be erected to the Memory of Mr. Ward,⁵ he hath nearly got the stones Completed. Now calls on me to se the same finished. I wish your direction, and in order to se the work finished I must be furnished with between 3 & 4000 dollars.

There was a Severe Scirmish in Jersey on Fryday last between a party of the Enemy and a detachment of Our Army under the Command of Genl. Greene, from the best accounts no great advantage was gained on either side, the loss supposed to be considerable. It is said Colo. Angels Regt. behaved exceeding well, and have suffered greatly, no particulars have yet come to hand. The Enemy Burnt every house in the Town of Springfield Save three on the Day of the Action & are now at Elisabeth Town point.

I have the Honour to be your Excellencys most obedient, Humble
Servant,
Ezekiel Cornell

NB Since writing the above the inclosed paper hath been published, which more fully explains some things I have mentioned.⁶

A resolution hath this moment pased Congress⁷ ordering all monneys Loaned Since the 18th of March last and all further Sums that shall be loaned untill the further order of Congress, to be paid at Forty for One with Interest at Six per Cent per Annum untill paid.

RC (R—Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Congress had resolved on April 18 that investors in Continental Loan Office certificates should “sustain no loss thereon” as a result of inflation, but had postponed a decision on how to implement this commitment. The subject was subsequently before Congress on April 25, 27, May 2, and June 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, before the delegates finally adopted a sliding “scale of depreciation” on June 28 in keeping with their April 18 resolution. See *JCC*, 16:374-75, 389-90, 393, 403, 17:538, 542, 544-48, 563, 565-69; and William Ellery to William Greene, April 18, 1780, note 6. For the related issue of discharging the certificate debt issued by the commissary and quartermaster departments, see also Committee of Congress to the Pennsylvania Council, May 22, note; Samuel Huntington to Timothy Pickering and Ephraim Blaine, August 25; and Huntington to the States, September 2, 1780.

² See *JCC*, 17:542, 549-50.

³ See Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare, June 19; and Cornell to William Greene, July 9, 1780.

⁴ William Ellery was appointed to the Board of Admiralty on June 23. *JCC*, 17:555.

⁵ That is, Samuel Ward, who had died at Philadelphia in March 1776 while serving as a Rhode Island delegate to Congress.

⁶ *The Pennsylvania Packet* of June 27 contained items on the Philadelphia merchants’ proposals and the “Scirmish in Jersey on Fryday last.”

⁷ Since this resolution was adopted on June 28, Cornell probably added this postscript that day. *JCC*, 17:568.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia June the 27th. 1780

Inclosed is a Copy of the Proportion of the new money to be Emitted for the State of Newhampshier as fixt by the board of treasury which I expect to Send on next day after tomorrow if I am not Dissappointed by one Captin John Brown of Boston who I shall ingage to Convey it to Exeter.¹

And allso a motion made by your Delegates for Pay for the Ship Hambden agreeable to your Request and the Report of the Committee to whome it wase Referd²—which I make no Doubt will be as Disagreeable to you as it wase to me. True it is Congress are in grate want of money at this time but as they had granted Some Relefe to the State of the Massachusetts they aught to have Done the Same by Newhampshier. When the worst come to the worst we must due our Selves Justice. I Did not move for Pay for the Cloathing being advised by my frinds to Postpone it at this time and waite a more favorable opportunity. I am Sr. with grate Respect your most obt. Humle Servent,

Nathl. Folsom

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ See Folsom to Weare, June 29, 1780.

² For the rejection of New Hampshire's request for compensation for the state's brig *Hampden*, captured by the British at Penobscot Bay in August 1779, see *JCC*, 17:553-54; and Samuel Huntington to Weare, June 24, 1780. A copy of the New Hampshire delegates' petition and draft motion for appropriating \$333,000 to reimburse the state for the *Hampden* is in the Peter Force Collection, DLC.

Samuel Holten to George Partridge

Dr. Sir.

Phila. June 27th 1780

In my last I mentioned that I had laid an extract of your letter before the board of Treasury, in a return I have recd. the inclosed to which I beg leave to refer you.¹ A few days since Congress determined that no depreciation on Loan office certificates shou'd take place previous to the 1st day of Sepr. 1777.

Our friend Lincoln is now with us here, and I think I can perceive that his late misfortunes has a sensible effect upon him, but he has this to comfort him that every one (so far as appears) seems to think that he & his little brave *army* did all that cou'd reasonably be expected! Agreeably to the resolutions of Congress and at his desire an inquiry is to be made respecting the surrender of Charlestown & his conduct as commanding officer & report the same to Congress, & I have reason to believe it will be to his honor.²

I am, Sir, with sincere respect your most Obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Precisely what Holten "inclosed" could not be determined, but see Holten to Partridge, June 21, 1780, note 2.

² Holten also wrote a similar letter concerning Gen. Benjamin Lincoln from which the following extract, addressed to William Gordon, was printed without date in *The Collector*, April 1893, p. 92.

"Our friend Lincoln is with us here, and I think I can perceive that his late misfortune has a sensible effect upon him, but he has this to comfort him, that every one seems to think that he and his brave little army did all that could measureably be expected. . . . I suppose our cruel enemies are at this time destroying our fellow-citizens, burning their houses and laying waste our country. Our brave general and his little army I fear will suffer greatly before the exertions of the states can now relieve him."

Samuel Huntington to the Marquis de Bouille

Sir,

Philada June 27. 1780

You will herewith receive an Act of Congress of the 20th Instant, expressing their Sense and Approbation of the Measures adopted in Consequence of your Orders relative to the Cargo of the Brig Hope,

in directing the same to be sold, and the Money to be deposited in the Hands of Mr W. Bingham, until the Legality of the Capture should be proved.¹

These Proceedings as the Case was then circumstanced, shewed the strictest Attention to the rights of the Claimants and the highest respect to the Opinion of Congress.

I have the honor to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "The Marquis de Bouille Governor Genl &c at Martinique."

¹ For the context in which Congress adopted the resolves enclosed with this letter, see Huntington to the Massachusetts Council, June 24, 1780.

John Walker to George Weedon

Dear General:

Philadelphia, 27 June, 1780.

I received with great pleasure your favour of the 16th Inst. and should have been very happy to have seen you at Fredericksburg.

Before this reaches you, you will no doubt have heard of your being called into service.¹ This I am sure will be agreeable to you, and may you render your country that service she stands in need of and that which I know you wish to do. Our affairs 'tis true are critical, but an adverse stroke is now and then necessary to rouse us to action. Our resources are undoubtedly sufficient and we want but exertions to work out our salvation. We are now roused and I hope the work will be finished before we fall into another fit of the lethargy. I think your scheme for recruiting our army an excellent one and wish with all my soul it were adopted. This and the neighbouring States are straining every nerve to bring the present campaign to a happy conclusion; let it not be said that Virginia was exceeded either in zeal or exertions by any one of them. Virginia has so distinguished herself in former times no less trying, that now the more is expected of her. The enemy have burnt Springfield, but were so roughly handled that they thought it prudent to return with a quick step to Elizabeth Town. 'Tis generally thought their next object will be West Point, but should they delay their operations a little longer, I think we shall be prepared for them at all points. Where in the name of Heaven are the Monsieurs all this time? We heard of their sailing from Brest the 9th of April.

Wherever the service of your Country may call you, I shall always rejoice to hear from you and shall not fail to answer your letters.

I have not yet seen the packet of the day, but intend to inclose you one and to it refer you for the news. Remember me cordially to all friends and believe me to be, My dear General, Your's sincerely,

Jn. Walker.

MS not found; reprinted from Thomas Balch, ed., *Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution* (Philadelphia: Printed for the Seventy-Six Society, 1857), pp. 111-12.

¹ See Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 16, 1780, note 2.

George Walton to Horatio Gates

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia, 27 June, 1780

After congratulating you & the Citizens and army in the Southern Department, upon your late appointment, permit me to request in general your care of letters which I shall, for safety, send thro Head-Quarters; and in particular the one now enclosed.¹ Should the Major's Parole have been extended, and he be out, be pleased to have the letter sealed & forwarded. On the contrary, should he be yet in Charles-Town, that you will send it in by the first flag.

I am, Dear Sir, with regard & esteem, Your most Obt. Servt.

Geo Walton

RC (MH-H: Sparks Manuscripts).

¹ The enclosed letter has not been identified.

Artemas Ward to Thomas Ward

Dear Tommy¹

Philadelphia 27 June 1780

I am at this time as well as expected and hope these will find you and all the family in like health.

I have not heard one Syllable from the family since I left it. I have wrote your mother three times, and Mr. Sumner once since I left home.² The mair stood the Journey better than the horse, she looked near as well when I arrived at Philadelphia, as when I left home & had more Spirit. The horse lost the most of his flesh by the time I had got to my Journeys end. This may be assigned to two reasons, viz. First to his being too young and secondly to his not having got seasoned to grass, and I don't know but I may assign a third namely his having had the horse distemper so lately. I have had him blooded, & hope he will recruit. His blood was Exceeding black. I arrived in this place the thirteenth of June about Eleven O.Clock which was the twelfth day after I set out. I rested the horse two days & a half, so that I was travelling but nine days, which was pushing rather too hard for so long a Journey; however I believe I have not hurt the horse. It is well I did not take the other horse for I imagine he would not have held out, Hope he answers for you as well as the

mair, should be glad to know. I have nothing of news to write you, but refer you to the inclosed NewsPaper. If your mother has not received the letters I wrote her send by [. . .] at the Post office in Boston for them where I conclude you will find them.

Sincerely wish that you and all my family may Enjoy the Divine Presence and blessing through the whol Period of this life and Eternal felicity in that which is to come. Adieu, A. W.

N. B. You will conduct in all matters according to your best judgment & I dare say I shall have no reason to find fault. I wish you would let me know how you get along with your business &c. Give my kind love to all the family farewell.

RC (MHi: Ward Papers).

¹ Thomas Walton Ward (1760-1835), Ward's son, was supervising the family farm in Shrewsbury, Mass., during the absence of his father, and later served as sheriff of Worcester County. Andrew H. Ward, *History of the Town of Shrewsbury* (Boston: Samuel G. Drake, 1847), p. 462.

² This letter to Thomas is the first letter Ward wrote after arriving in Philadelphia on June 13 that has been found.

Committee at Headquarters to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Josias Beall

In Committee of Congress, MorrisTown,
June 28, 1780.

Gentlemen,¹

We are this moment honored by the receipt of a letter of the 27th instant from the Commander in Chief, covering copy of your joint letter of the 22d, and addressed to his Excellency, with his answer.²

The committee duly impressed with the utility of augmenting the number of regular troops in the field—the cogency of the reasons by you adduced in favour of such augmentation, so far as they relate to your state, in preference to the mode pointed out by the Committee in their Circular letter of the 2d instant in concurrence with the Commander in Chief, for reinforcing the Army. Sensible of the peculiar embarrassments your state might be under, by endeavoring, at this time, to furnish the proposed quota of Militia, and wishing to calculate every measure to be adopted to the inclination and convenience of the States, are induced fully to coincide with the General in opinion respecting your propositions. Though, as the General observes, many inconveniencies will arise in consequence of so great a deduction from the force you were to have furnished, and if a proportionable diminition should take place in the other states, although the men, thus furnished will be engaged upon a permanent footing, we are not without anxiety least our Army should be found

inadequate to the great objects in view. Our feelings have more than once been tortured, by seeing the General, with his little army, involved at a most critical moment in such complicated embarrassments as few Generals would have encountered, when at the same time his sensibility must have been greatly wounded by reflecting that this labyrinth of distress was in a great measure owing to the cruel neglect of those whose indispensable duty it was to have supported their cause by furnishing him with an Army and supplies equal to the exigency of the time; and the importance of establishing their independence, and bringing the war to a speedy and honorable termination; yet we are fully convinced such is his delicacy and candour, such his affectionate regard to the case and convenience of the state, that he would undergo every species of hardship and fatigue, run every risque that did not with temerity endanger a total loss of the Army; the consequences, inevitable to such an event, you will readily conceive. In short, that he would sacrifice every thing but his honor and integrity in support of the independence of these States, rather than they should be burthened by any unnecessary requisition. We shall therefore rely with the most intire confidence, that the condition and proposals mentioned [in the gen]erals letter to you, and upon which he was induced to accept the propositions of your state, will be most rigidly observed, and fully complied with on their part.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & Esteem,
Gentlemen, Your most Obedt. Hble Servts,

J. Mathews

N. Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ Jenifer and Beall were president of the Maryland Senate and speaker of the House of Delegates respectively. Beall signed their "joint letter of the 22d" to Washington "Josia Beall." Washington Papers, DLC. His name is entered as "Josias" in *A Biographical Directory of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789*, edited by Edward C. Papenfuse, et. al. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979-84. 2 vols.), 1:123-24. He is variously listed as "Josias" and "Josiah" in Maryland sources.

² For Washington's June 27 letter to the committee expressing his pleasure over the Maryland legislature's intent to raise "an extra [*Continental*] Battallion in lieu of the Militia required" and asking the committee to inform the assembly "of their approbation of the measure," see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:76-77. For his reply to Jenifer and Beall, see *ibid.*, pp. 85-86.

This day Mathews and Peabody also received a letter from Philip Schuyler, undated but endorsed by Abraham Brasher "Genl. Schuyler to the committee—dated Pompton . . . recd. 28th June 1780," which indicates that he too had reviewed Washington's June 27 letter, while on his way from Morristown to headquarters at Ramapo the previous day. "I have perused the letter from the legislature of Maryland, and the Generals answer," Schuyler explained. "I heartily approve of what the legislature proposed, and think It advisable If you do so, that the letter which Signifies our Approbation Should contain a Compliment on the Exertions of the State. . . . Pray come on soon as you possibly can as the Genl. May want us." PCC, item 153, 3:531-32. See also Committee at Headquarters to Washington, June 24, 1780, note 2.

T A B L E

FOR

THE PAYMENT

OF

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST OF
LOANS,

AGREEABLE TO

THE RESOLUTIONS

OF

C O N G R E S S,

OF

The twenty-eighth day of June,
1780.

P H I L A D E L P H I A:PRINTED BY DAVID C. CLAYPOOLE,
Printer to the Honourable the Congress.

M,DCC,LXXX.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[June 28, 1780]

28. Wednesday. I dined with Colo. Pickering. The Honl. Mr. Adams arrived here from Boston.¹ A fine rain.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ Samuel Adams took his seat in Congress on June 29. *JCC*, 17:571.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia June the 29th. 1780

I embrace the earliest opportunity to inclose you the Resolution of Congress Respecting loan office Certificates which have been under Consideration every opportunity for a long time Past and Post-pond and Put off upon Different views and Different motives to this Day,¹ hope it may be agreeable. Alltho not exactly according to my mind, yet it is the highest to Justice Could be agreed on. As Soon as the treasury Board have Prepared the Proper labels for the Several loan officers in Paying off the Principal and Interest they will be forwarded to the Respective loan officers.

By a letter this Day Recd. from general Washington dated the 24th Instant² we are informed he was on his march for West Point on the North River where he expected to meet general Clinton with all the force he Can muster. Much is Depending on that fortress, and what situation they are in on account of Provision we Know not, a large quantity of Salted beef being ordered there from New London but whether arrived Seasonably we have not been informed.

Yesterday I Sent off our Preportion of the new money by Capt. John Brown of Boston who has engaged to Deliver it with out loss of time to the treasurer at Exeter for which he has Recd. three thousand Dollars in full for the Same, hope it may arrive Safe.

It was Some of the first Struck off and as soon as it was Ready immediatly Sent off.

I have the Honour to be with grate Respect, your most. obt. Humble. Servent,

Nathl. Folsom

P.S. I Shall expect to be Relieved in Sepr. as I must then Return home.

N F.

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ The enclosed resolution "Respecting loan office Certificates" was adopted on June 28. See Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, June 27, 1780, note 1, and illustration.

² Folsom was referring to General Washington's letter to President Huntington of June 25, which was read this day in Congress. *JCC*, 17:571.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir, Philada June 29. 1780

The urgent Necessity of drawing into the public Treasury the ten Millions of Dollars mentioned in the Act of the 19th of May was so fully pointed out, that Congress exceedingly regret the Failure of this necessary Supply. The Conjuncture is already arrived when it is become essential not only to the Operations of this Campaign, but to the very Existence of the Army. Congress therefore can no longer delay reiterating the most importunate Solicitations, that the Proportions of each of the States be forwarded immediately. For this Purpose they have despatched a special Messenger, and they trust he will not meet with Disappointment.¹

A further Sum must also be speedily had, or it will be impossible for the Operations to proceed. Congress have therefore drawn on these States for the remainder of their Quotas to the first of March last inclusive, and it is their Duty to conjure the several States, if they should be still unprepared, that they will at all Events transmit their Arrears to the Period last mentioned to the Continental Treasury within thirty Days from the Date of the Warrants.

The monthly Estimates of Money heretofore made were but barely sufficient at that Time, their Vallue has since greatly diminished & the Payment has been delayed long after it became due. These Circumstances have already involved our Affairs in much Perplexity, and driven to Expedients which nothing but the last Necessity could justify. Permanency & Arrangement in the public Finances must at every Hazard be introduced & supported. In this View Congress do again with the most earnest Solitude press on the several States the Necessity of vigorous & decisive Measures for carrying into full & immediate Execution their resolutions of the 18th of March last, the Doing which, at the same Time that it places public Credit on the surest Basis, will in the Course of the Year give all the relief that could possibly result from a further Emission equal to the whole that is now in Circulation. These resolutions Congress are perswaded are every Day better understood, and that upon giving them their full Effect very much depends the final Establishment of our Liberties. It is unnecessary that Congress should suggest to the several States the Expediency of providing by Loans against any Deficiency they may have reason to apprehend from their Taxes.

The blank Bills for the several States will be forwarded as fast as the Acts of their Assemblies—providing Funds for them are transmitted to Congress.

By Order of Congress,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "Circular from New Hampshire to Maryland."

¹ The Board of Treasury had reported on June 26 that very little money had recently

been received from the states and that in consequence they were unable to meet demands from the quartermaster department required to maintain Washington's army in the field. The report was referred to a committee consisting of James Duane, Oliver Ellsworth, John Henry, Jared Ingersoll, and Artemas Ward, which submitted the recommendations that were embodied in this letter, drafted by Ingersoll, and adopted by Congress this date. See *JCC*, 17:563-65, 575-78; and *PCC*, item 24, fols. 275-79.

Robert R. Livingston to George Clinton

Dear Sir, Philadelphia, 29th June, 1780.

I should be very much mortified if I were to ascribe your silence to neglect, but I know the diversity of business that has engaged your attention for some time past, & do not wonder if amidst the hurry of great affairs the little calls of private friendship sh'd be forgot. It gave me sensible pleasure to find from the great superiority of ballots in your favor at the last election, that the people notwithstanding the endeavours of some designing men are disposed to do justice to your merits.

I am sorry to find that in passing the finance bill, no provision has been made for exchanging money, as this w'd enable you to answer the demands of Congress which are extreamly pressing & at the same time put some money in the treasury without too much disstressing the inhabitants by taxes; it was for this purpose the words by *taxes or otherwise* were inserted in the resolution. If the legislature are sitting, I wish a supplemental bill may pass immediately; if not I think that the necessity would justify you in ordering the treasurer to do it till they met, as it never was the Idea of any of us that you could raise the whole sum demanded by tax.

I wrote to you on the subject of my tax.¹ I am informed that instead of nine thousand it is nearly £15000, so that my annual tax am's to upwards of £50,000; my income is not £10,000. I do not wish to get rid of any burthen which others bear; all I ask is that the Legislature will not suffer advantage to be taken of the absence of their servants; but either have the charge open till I am [at] liberty to return & controvert it, or by making the proper inquiries themselves do me justice.

We have information of the arrival of a very formidable Spanish armament in the West Indies, so that we have all the reason in the world to suppose that some decisive blow will be struck there after the hurricane months are over; England will have more upon her hands than she can cleverly manage, and I think we have all the reason imaginable to believe, that if we make exertions any way adequate to the occasion, this will be a decisive campaign.

We have been in pain for West Point,² but I hope that we have now nothing to fear from that quarter, as we hear that our line are

returned & that the posts are strongly reinforced. Should they be attacked I hope by the blessing of Heaven that our militia under your Excellency's command may acquire equal glory & be crowned with more success than they were in the last attack.

You will present my comp's to Mrs. Clinton & believe me to be with every sentiment of respect & esteem, Your Excellency's Most
Obt. Hum. Serv't, Robt. R. Livingston.

Reprinted from Clinton, *Papers* (Hastings), 5:896-97. RC (N: Clinton Papers). Charred.

¹ See Livingston to Clinton, May 19, 1780.

² For his enlarged view on the needs of West Point, see Livingston to Washington, June 22, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir In Committee of Congress,
Morris Town June 30 1780

We inclose you for the information of Congress copies of several letters by us receiv'd one from the Governor of the State of Maryland, to the Commander in Chief, another from him to us, and our letter to the Governor of Maryland in consequence thereof.¹

We have the honor to be, With the highest Respect, Your most
Obt. Servts. Jno. Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Mathews and Peabody. Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Letter from Comee at headquarters June 30. 1780, Read July 3. [*Enclosures:*] 1. Genl W's letter Jun 27. 2 Comee's letter to legislature of Maryland, June 28."

¹ For these "several letters," see Committee at Headquarters to Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Josias Beall, June 28, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to George Washington

Sir In Committee of Congress
Morris Town June 30. 1780.

We inclose you copies of our several letters to the states, agreeable to the inclosed list.¹

We must rely on your Excellency's candor & generosity, to excuse us for not having done this sooner; but a variety of business has so

JUNE 30, 1780

34

Committee of Congress
to the Hon. George Washington

We enclose in a packet of our views on cotton
to the States, under the increased list —

We must return upon Bellinghams order
before we can to receive any of his money but
as we are at present so busy we are not yet occupied our time,
we send it to you to be taken care of the whole matter
and before. —

We have not yet received so
much as we need of them as cotton, little except from New York
and Philadelphia and we are also inclosed by your info
nation. —

We are with the kindest respects
to you

Yours Bellingham
Wm. Bellingham
J. M. Mather
Nathl. Peabody

Wm. Bellingham
General Washington

constantly occupied our time, as render'd it impracticable to have copies of the whole made out before.

The Committee have as yet received no answers to any of their circular letters except from New Jersey, Rhode Island and Delaware, copies of which are also inclosed for your information.²

We are with the highest Respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most
Obt. Humble servants,

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Mathews and Peabody.

¹ Undoubtedly the committee's six circular letters to the states of May 25, June 2, 12, 19, and 23. For Washington's circular letter to the states of this day expressing his chagrin over the "present crisis," see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:104-5.

² On July 5 the committee forwarded two additional letters, from the governors of Delaware and Maryland. Washington Papers, DLC.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia June 30th 1780

I do my self the honour, to inclose to your Excellency, a list of the Quotas of Money, due from each state to the Continent, for Taxes for the years 1778, 1779, and for the Months of January & February, 1780;¹ Also a list of all the moneys loaned, from each state respectively.²

I have little news to write, at this time, more then is contained in the publick papers inclosed. To give you a History of our publick affairs, would only serve to hurt your feeling, by a repetition of the want of money, which I will not undertake at this time. But submit our situation to your own Judgment formed from the Inteligence you have already received.

New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Conecticut, New York, New Jersey, & Maryland, have adopted the Resolution, of Congress, of the 18th of March last; and pased Acts for funding their proportion of the New Money, it is expected Virginia will immediately do the Same if not done already. I cannot willingly admit, a doubt, to remain, on my mind, that our State, have not adopted the Measure, As I think the people before this, must be convinced of the Necessity, of adopting the measure if not of the Justice.

I cannot help mentioning how far, some States have furnished Supplies, for the Army, agreeable to a Resolution of Congress, of the 25th Febry Last. N York & New Jersey have furnished the whole, and more; and can Supply no more at any rate, therefore you will

se the Necessity of the other states exerting themselves. I hope other States will be better able to Comply with the requisitions then I think Rhode Island is. At the same time I cannot doubt her exerting her self even beyond her ability and thereby come nearer furnishing the Supplis demanded then some other states better able as often hath been the Case.

Your Excellency will receive by the barer of this or soon be informed, of a Warrant on Mr Clark for the States proportion of 10,000,000 of Dollars ordered by a Resolution of Congress of the 19th of last Month. Also the States proportion of Bills of Exchange drawn on Mr. Franklin & Mr. Jay by order of the aforementioned Resolution,³ Which in Consequence of one of those blunders which in Congress are not looked upon, as Maricles, have slept until this day, tho at the same time the Treasury Board were ordered by the Resolve to forward them without delay.

I cannot forbear mentioning that I should be exceding happy to hear by every convenient oppertunity how publick matters are going on in the state. I am often Called upon in Congress to know what is doing. I can only say I have received no Inteligence, But have reason to believe the State will do everything in their power.

I wish to be informed to what Time you have received the Jornals of Congress And I will endeavour to forward them from that to this time.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency, most obedt Hum
 Servt, Ezek Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ This list of "balances" due to the Continental government is printed in *JCC*, 17:564.

² This enclosure was not found.

³ Rhode Island's share was \$156,250 of the "10,000,000 of Dollars" and \$3,000 of the "Bills of Exchange." *JCC*, 17:437-38.

Samuel Holten to Isaac Foster

My dear Sir.

Philada. June 30th. 1780.

You will take notice that my other letter of this date is official,¹ and this is to be considered in my private capacity as a friend to you.

No doubt you will take notice there is nothing pas'd by the com[mitte]e in answer to yours respecting your proceedings in regard to the poor persons in the Hospital on Rainsford Island; But I have reason to believe they do not disapprove of your conduct, & may I be permitted to advise that you conduct with as much Œconomy as possible.

I inclose you a copy of a *late* resolution of Congress which I tho't necessary you shou'd be made acquainted with.²

I took notice that your letter was addressed to me as a member of Congress, but by the contents it shou'd have been to the Chairman of the medical committee and as I may not be here when your next letter comes to hand, I advise (as a friend) to keep your public & private Letters separate.

The Hone. Mr. Adams arrived here *safe* the day before yesterday.

I am Sir, with Sincere respect, your most obedient servant.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Holten's official letter of this date to Foster on behalf of the Medical Committee has not been found, but see the following entry.

² Holten probably enclosed a copy of the June 26 resolution authorizing the Medical Committee "to take proper measures for carrying on the business of the said department" in the wake of the arrest of the director general, William Shippen, Jr. *JCC*, 17:561-62.

Samuel Holten to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir.

Philadelphia June 30th. 1780.

I was favored with yours by Genl. Schuyler¹ & intended to have done myself the pleasure of writing to you by him, but he sit out sooner than I expected.

You mention that you have not the last returns. Dr. Brown, I think, made two returns of the Medical Gentlemen not long since, & as I have but one of them I did suppose you had the other, as I tho't I had some remembrance of your taking of one: the return I have is at this time wanted by the comittee, as they are considering what Gentlemen are most proper to join the Southern Army; but if you stand in need of the return, I will send it or a copy; I inclose you a late resolution of Congress respecting the department:² And the committee have wrote to Dr. Brown³ directing him to let them know the state of the middle district, & what stores & medicines are *absolutely* necessary; Mr. Henry of Virginia is added to the committee, & we are doing all in our power to afford supplies.

It gives me concern that the General shou'd be under embarrassments from a resolution of Congress,⁴ & I gave it as my opinion to Genl. Schuyler that it might be removed, but it has not been mentioned in Congress.

It is a great misfortune to our country, that when we shou'd have our armies in the field, we have the men to raise & money & supplies to collect, and 'tho' I am not disposed to find fault with any, yet I think there has been delays, & we must now suffer the consequences.

Genl. Lincoln is with us here, and agreeably to the resolutions of

Congress & at his desire an inquiry is to be made respecting the Surrender of Charlestown, & into his conduct as commanding officer, & report the same to Congress, & I have reason to believe it will be to his honor.

General Ward arrived here about a fortnight since, & Mr. Adams on Wednesday last; so that I shall sit out for Boston soon after Jere returns.

I presented your compliments to the ladies, & have it in charge from them to return you the like salute.

I am, Sir, with sincere respect, your most obedient servant,
S. Holten

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ See Peabody to Holten, June 14, 1780.

² See the preceding entry, note 2.

³ Not found.

⁴ Holten is referring to a resolution believed to restrict American military operations to within the boundaries of the United States—an issue Peabody had raised in his June 14 letter to Holten.

Samuel Huntington to Nathaniel Appleton

Sir, Philadelphia June 30. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 29th Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that Nathaniel Appleton & Joseph Henderson Esquires are appointed Commissioners on the Part of the United States, either of them to endorse the Bills that shall be emitted, pursuant to the resolution of Congress of the 18th of March last.

You will please to observe the same Bills are to be endorsed on the Part of the United States but by one Commissioner, tho two are appointed to avoid Delay in Case of the Death or Inability of one, and it may be convenient for one to endorse the whole if practicable without Difficulty.¹

I am Sir, with much respect, your most obedt. servt.
Sam. Huntington President

RC (MH: Colbourn Collection). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ JCC, 17:575. Appleton was commissioner of the Continental loan office in Massachusetts. Joseph Henderson was undoubtedly sent a similar letter by Huntington. A nearly identical one from Huntington to the president of the Massachusetts Council, dated July 6, officially notifying the state of these appointments, is in the Revolutionary War Letters, M-Ar.

At the request of the Massachusetts delegates, Congress also later added Peter Boyer and Thomas Walley to the list of commissioners authorized to endorse the Massachusetts bills described in the enclosed "Act." Notices of these August 29 appointments were sent by Huntington to Boyer and Walley and to the president of the Massachusetts Council on August 31. See JCC, 17:791-92; and PCC, item 15, fol. 89.

For the appointment of Benjamin and Thomas Harwood on June 30 as commissioners to endorse bills to be emitted by the state of Maryland under the same authority, see *JCC*, 17:578. Huntington's letters notifying the Harwoods of their appointments, dated July 2, are in the Roberts Collection, PHC; and Burnett, *Letters*, 5:247.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir Philadelphia June 30. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 29th Instant herewith enclosed your Excellency will be informed they have approved of the Line of Communication which you have been forming by Expresses Southward & Northward, and resolved that the same be continued until the further Order of Congress.¹

I have the honour to be with the highest respect, your Excy's most
obedt servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (Vi: Continental Congress Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:574-75. For Jefferson's June 15 letter suggesting alterations in the "line of expresses" into Virginia recently authorized by Congress, see Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:446-47.

Joseph Jones to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sr. Phila. 30th June 1780

The Troops left by Sr. Henry Clinton in South Carolina amounting to about 3500 Men besides 1500 sent to Georgia cannot be sufficient unless increased by the accession of Tories, to overawe that State, especially when the Inhabitants shall find themselves supported by the Regulars and Militia going to their assistance. The 5000 Militia recommended by Congress to be raised by Virga. to join the Southern Army including the 2500 then or about to be raised and the additional Body to be kept in readiness,¹ if your intelligence corresponds with the above state of the Enemies Strength cannot now be necessary the requisition being made upon a supposition a much greater Force would have continued in South Carolina. The alteration of circumstances will justify an alteration of measures and by lessening the Draughts of Militia increase the number of Recruits for the Regular Army. Upon it and not upon Militia is our great dependence. Besides the caling forth, if it can be safely avoided, such large Bodies of Militia lessens the productions of the Earth and generally produces great distress to a number of Families. Sr. Henry Clintons proclamation exempting the Inhabitants of S. Carolina not taken in the Town from their paroles, evinces his design and expect-

tation of gaining the people to his side, and that they will take up Arms in support of the British Government. It is not improbable his threats and promises may in their present unsupported situation induce many to do so, unless the approach of the American Troops Shall afford them hopes of Protection, in which case I am inclined to think he will be disappointed as the people cannot but feel resentment at the sudden transition from assumed lenity to a demand of bearing Arms in manifestation of their loyalty, or being exposed to confiscation of Property and punishmt. for supposed Crimes. We hear our assembly are about to reconsider their late determination respecting the Scheme of Finance recommended by Congress, and that it was expected the Measure would yet be adopted.² I am happy to hear it, being confident the rejection of the proposition and the emission of more paper money could not fail of producing the worst of consequences. Let us not depart from the determination not to increase the quantity—that resolution has already appreciated the money and a steady adherence to the measure will at length effectually do it. The present is the Season for accomplishing the great work of Confederation. If we suffer it to pass away I fear it will never return. The example of New York is worthy of imitation—could Virginia but think herself as she certainly is already full large for vigorous Government, she too would moderate her desires, and cede to the united States, upon certain conditions, her Territory beyond the Ohio. The act of New York, the instructions of Maryland to their Delegates, and the Declaration of that State upon the subject And the late remonstrance of Virga. are now before a Committee, and I expect they will report, that it be recommended to the States having extensive western unappropriated Claims to follow the example of New York and by Law Authorise their Delegates to make the Cession.³ I some time past sent Mr. Mason a Copy of the New York Act. Gloomy as the prospect of our affairs has been and in fact still is when compared with the Objects we have in view through the Course of this Campaign I yet feele myself revived by the accounts lately received from our State that the people are at length awakened from their slumber and appear to act with becoming Spirit and ardor at this important conjuncture, especially as the States in general, for the present moment, seem to be roused and impressed with the necessity of great & immediate exertions and if the Spirit is kept up for a while we may reasonably hope for the happiest Consequences. I have been much and still am depressed to think that America should do so little for herself while France is proposing to do so much—that we should, contending for every thing dear and valuable to men, look on with folded Arms and suffer other Powers almost unassisted by us, to work out our salvation and Independence. The Idea is humiliating. The Fact must [be] dishonorable and our Posterity will blush to read It in future Story. Letters from Martinique so late as

the 3d & 4th of this month inform us of the arrival of a Spanish Frigate announcing that 12 Spanish Ships of the line, 4-50 Gunship[s] and six Frigates with abt. 10,000 Troops were abt. 200 leagues to windwd. when the Frigate left them, coming forward to join the French Fleet and forces. The Ct. Guichen was going out with 16 sail of the line to meet them. Upon the junction of their Fleets, the superiority of the Combined Force will be decided, and we may expect soon to hear of some important stroke made in that Quarter. It was conjectured their first attempt wou. be St. Lucia if the approach of the hurricane months did not discourage the enterprise—then Jamacia and from thence come round and by uniting the whole Forces sweep the Coast of North America. The representation is grand and opens so pleasing a prospect to us I will not lessen your pleasure by a doubt of it being verified. These Letters further inform us that the Armament carrying on at Brest and wch. they expected was for the Wt. Indies is for North America and that it was expected to sail abt. the 15th April. It is said to consist of ten ships of the line and a large Body of Troops—no doubt they will make it as large as they well can as it is evident the War will be principally here and in the Wt. Indies. Between the 12th & 19th of last month Rodney and Guichen have had three engagements, the last a severe action in wch. the Count kept the Sea. For further particulars I refer you to the inclosed paper as well as for the account so far as we are yet informed of the action at Springfield in the Jerseys between our Troops & Militia under Genl. Green and the British & Hessians under Kniphausen. The Jersey Militia acquired immortal Fame as indeed they do upon almost every occasion where they are engaged with the Enemy. With great respect, I have the honor to be yr most obedt. Servt.,

Jos. Jones

[P.S.] Congress have formed the Scale of Depreciation to apply to Loan office Certificates.

from the 1st Sept. 1777 to 1st. March 1778	at 1 ¾
Thence to Sept. 1st. 78 - - - - - 78	- - 4
Thence to March 1st. - - - - - 79	- - 10
Thence to Sept. 1st. - - - - - 79	- - 18
Thence to Mar. 18th. - - - - - 80	- - 40

The intermediate time of the respective periods to be calculated in Geometrical proportion. The Resolves will be immediately published. This will reduce the principal of Loans from 46,559,235 to 11,053,573.

RC (DLC: Jefferson Papers).

¹ See Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 21, 1780.

² The Virginia legislature was already reconsidering its "late determination respecting the Scheme of Finance" and in early July adopted an act redeeming the money in circulation and funding new bills of credit. The legislation would take effect, how-

ever, only when the governor received confirmation that a majority of states, not including South Carolina and Georgia, had acceded to the resolutions of March 18. Meanwhile, to meet "the present urgent necessities of this commonwealth," the legislature realized Jones' fear of placing more paper money in circulation by authorizing the emission of up to £2 million of additional treasury notes. See William W. Hening, *The Statutes at Large: Being a Collection of All the Laws of Virginia* (Richmond: J. & G. Cochran, 1809-23), 10:241-54, 279-86. See also Jefferson's July 26 and 27 letters to James Madison and to Huntington in Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:506-12.

³ Maryland's instructions to its delegates had been read in Congress on May 21, 1779, and the New York act and Virginia remonstrance on March 7 and April 28, 1780. On June 26 they were assigned to a committee of five, of which Jones was a member, that delivered its report this day. The report, which was read July 3, was not taken into consideration and agreed to until early September. See *JCC*, 14:619-22, 16:236, 398, 17:559-60, 580, 586, 802, 806-7. See also Samuel Huntington to the States, September 10, 1780.

James Lovell to Elbridge Gerry

Sir, [June 30? 1780]¹

Mr. Adams who arrived here two days ago gives me the pleasure of knowing he met you & left you well at Hartford. I hope you are enjoying much of the Sweets of Reunion with Family & other Friends, from whom you have been long seperated. Could you throw aside the knotty-browed Politician, you are now in a Region, where your own Accomplishments being well known, *intrinsic* merit only will suppose that a Face or Shape or Air can have Effect upon *you*. May the Loveliest of the Lovely soon succeed in her justifiable Arts to entice you within her Empire!

The Scale for loaned principals is at length decided.²

1777	Sepr. 1st	— 1	} Intermediate Dates as the Times in geometrical proportion.
1778	March 1st	— 1.75	
	Sepr. 1st	— 4	
1779	Mar 1st	— 10	
	Sepr. 1	— 18	
1780	Mar 18.	— 40	} Interest at 6 per C[en]t upon the Principals to be pd. in Kind as the principals, preserving the Lenders Claim to Bills of Exchange on France.

I hope it will give Content. It is impossible that it should critically accord with every Man's Judgment or Interest. But in God's Name let us show a Revival of enlarged Sentiments & true Patriotism and cease to be a Confederation of assay-men, griping Farmers and Jew-Pedlars.

Mr. A, or Mr. D——³ if the former cannot attend, is to take Mr. Laurens's Powers in Holland till his arrival, for the Money purposes. The papers will as speedily as possible be forwarded to Europe. I send you the Continuation of 1778 and will shortly send an Index so that you may have the Vol. bound there according to the former, or else give Directions here to your humble Servant, J L

RC (DLC: Gerry Papers, photostat).

¹ Although Lovell did not date this letter, he probably wrote it on June 30th, two days after Samuel Adams' arrival in Philadelphia on June 28, which Lovell states, in his opening sentence, occurred "two days ago." See Samuel Holten's Diary, June 28, 1780.

² For Congress' adoption of this scale of depreciation to protect the owners of Continental loan office certificates against inflation, see Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, June 27, 1780, note 1.

³ That is, John Adams or Francis Dana. See Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams, July 11, 1780.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadelphia. July 1st 1780

I am favoured with your two Letters by Mr McHard and be assured your request shall be duely attended to. Mr. Dickenson is not in Town nor Can I get Any information whether his Coach is yet for Sale.

Our affairs it is true have of late worn but an unfavourable Aspect, but we are far from being in the last Ditch, as some are dastardly enough to imagine. Our resources are great, And we are now roused I hope to A proper exertion. The Enemy have met with A Considerable repulse in the Jerseys, And our Garrison at West Point I hope is now in a Condition to Sustain the Attack of the Enemy tho' [their wh]ole force Should go Against it, as is reported. A Considerable quantity of provisions has been lately thrown in. And men will not be wanting. No Account of the Arrival of the french fleet. Inclosed you have the last papers to which I refer you for news. Mr McHard had three pounds best Tea for Mrs. Lee which I hope will please. I could not trust my own Judgment but got a Lady to Chuse it for her & Shou[ld] ever you have leisure and Opportunity I hope to be favoured with A line and tho' I have hitherto been a little forgetful of my promise Shall endeavour to make you Amends in future. My Compliments to Mrs. Lee. With great respect I am my Dr Sir, Your most Obedient Sert,

John Hanson

RC (CSmH: Emmet Collection).

Henry Laurens to the Committee for Foreign Affairs

Gentlemen.

Philadelphia 1st July 1780.

When I addressed you under the 24th February last,¹ I had received the strongest assurances from Capt. Hill, Master of the Ad-

riana that, Wind permitting, he would Sail the very next day, I had constantly visited his Vessel Morning, Noon & Evening urging dispatch; my Sea Stock &c were already embarked & I had for several preceeding days held myself in readiness to follow them at a moments warning, but that next day & another passed away without effect, when there appeared at Anchor in front of Charles Town Harbor about thirteen Sail of the Enemy's Ships of War & rendred it impracticable for a Vessel of the Adriana's draught of Water to go to Sea with safety.

In these circumstances I determined to seek a Passage in one of the Northern Ports, & at George Town hired a small Schooner, the Peggy, Gabriel Bryan, Master, to convey me, at my option, to Martinique, Wilmington or some Port in Chesepeke Bay & I ordered the Indigo which had been shipped in the Adriana to be put on board the Peggy, upon terms of freight much more advantageous to the Public than those which had been agreed upon with the Owners of the former Vessel—at George Town I ordered the Peggy to Wilmington where I was informed there was an exceeding good Vessel bound to France. Upon my arrival at Wilmington I found that Vessel was in no forwardness, therefore I pressed Capt. Bryan to the further prosecution of his engagement by sailing to York in Virginia, where I learned the fier Roderique an Armed french Ship was lying & nearly ready to Sail for Port L'Orient, as I wished to embark in the Roderique or some other Vessel bound directly to Europe in order to save Money & time which must unavoidably have been expended had I attempted a circuitous Voyage through the West Indies, as well as to avail myself of the best Market for Sale of the Indigo & to shun a double risque of Capture; the Captain endeavored to excuse himself from a compliance by alledging that his Mariners had refused to go the Voyage & that many of them had absconded upon being informed of the destination; he had also been instructed by his Owner Mr. Nelson to reland the Indigo if I should insist upon the Vessel's going to Virginia & to protest the impossibility of procuring Seamen. After wasting much time in attempts to persuade Capt. Bryan to proceed to York in pursuance of his contract, I received intelligence of the fall of Fort Moultrie & Charles Town in which I foresaw the whole state of South Carolina would be involved, & it being the general opinion that the Port of Wilmington would soon be invested by the Enemy's Cruisers, I proposed as an alternative, that the Peggy should proceed directly to Cadiz, the freight of the Indigo to be no more than was to have been paid had she discharged at Martinique or in Chesepeake Bay, which was accepted—the Schooner departed from Wilmington the 25th May & I believe went safely to Sea on the 26th.

Inclosed with this, you will receive an Invoice & Bill of Loading for the Indigo,² when I get possession of my Papers which are in a Waggon on their way hither I will present you with Copy of my

Instructions to the Merchants at Cadiz to whom the Indigo is consigned, will explain the intent & meaning of the reserve "*subject to the further order of the said Henry Laurens.*" contained in those documents & also inform you in what manner the Rice inserted in the first Invoice was disposed of, the Plate mentioned in the said first Invoice is coming forward with my Papers.

South Carolina being in possession of the Enemy, & nothing, in my view, at the time of the Peggy's Sailing, that could have prevented a rapid & destructive progress of the Enemy through No. Carolina wrought so great a change on the face of our public affairs & such a reverse of my own fortune, as led me to think it proper & even incumbent on me to present myself to Congress. I arrived in this City last Night & now wait their further Commands.

Before I conclude, permit me Gentlemen to observe & to assure you that a constant & steady attention to my Public Duty has been extremely detrimental to my private Interest—by a personal application to the latter I might have saved as many articles in moveables from my Estates as would have yielded me many Thousand Pounds Sterling, these have been since taken or destroyed by the British Troops or are now in their possession & I am at this moment reduced to such circumstances as would be grievous to a Man who had not sincerely devoted his Life & fortune to the service of his Country.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient & most humble servant,
Henry Laurens

RC (DNA: PCC, item 89).

¹ This letter is in PCC, item 89, fols. 185-88.

² Not found; but for Congress' approval of Laurens' request to be allowed to reship this cargo of indigo to Cadiz "on his own account and risque," see *JCC*, 17:583, 587.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[July 4, 1780]

4. Tuesday. Anniversary of our independence. Congress attended the public commencement¹ & had a cold collation with a no. of Gent. I wrote to the town of Danvers, to Colo. Hutchinson & to Mrs. Holten (no. 137).² A very warm day. No news.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ For a description of the "public commencement," see the *Pennsylvania Packet*, July 8, 1780.

² Holten's letters to Israel Hutchinson and to the Inhabitants of Danvers follow this entry; his letter to Mary Holten has not been found.

Samuel Holten to Israel Hutchinson

My dear Sir,

Philada. July 4th. 1780.

Your favor of the 31st of May came to hand the 29th of June, the reasons why I was so long deprived of the pleasure of receiving it I am not able to say.

My being appointed to a Seat in the honble house & soon after in Council are very distinguishing marks of confidence & respect,¹ but what adds to it is the obliging manner in which you communicated the same.

The reasons you are pleased to assign for not writing more particular, I wish you to consider as opparating the same on my side, as I hope to have the pleasure of paying you my personal respects in about five weeks.

The reasons of our present embarrassed State of affairs is owing in a great measure to these two great causes the depreciation of our currency, & some of the states not immediately coming in to the resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March last respecting finance. I was happy to hear the State [I] have the honor to represent, immediately complied with them; I perceive the states are coming in one after another (better late than never) they begin to be sensible that they are now suffering for not complying sooner. I thought when they passd. & have seen no reason to alter my opinion that over all under God in a great measure, depended thereon.

Please to make my proper respects to Mrs. Hutchinson.

I am, with sincere respect your most obidient

P.S. Please to be so kind as to take charge of the inclosed.²

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ See Holten's Diary, June 19, 1780; and the following entry.

² Apparently the following entry.

Samuel Holten to the Inhabitants of Danvers, Mass.

My worthy friends

Philada. July 4th. 1780.

A few days since I was favored with a letter from Colo. Hutchinson, in which he mentions that the Town of Danvers had made choice of me with himself to represent them in the Genl. Assembly the ensuing year; I take the earliest oppertunity to acknowledge the honor done me and to assure you that such repeated marks of your confidance & respect will have a deep and lasting impression upon my mind; & whatever station I may be called to act in, it will always give me

satisfaction to think that while I am endeavouring to Serve my country in general that I still retain the approbation of the Town that gave me birth & first bro't me into public view, & which in times past I had the pleasure of Serving more immediately; But I must observe, that previous to my receiving the Colonels letter I had been formally notified by the Honble. Council of Massachusetts that the Genl. Court had elected me one of the Council and desired me to take my seat accordingly, I returned for answer that as soon as my engagements here wou'd permit & I cou'd with propriety leave Congress, I wou'd return & take my seat at the honorable board,¹ which deprives me of accepting a seat in the honble house to which you was pleased to appoint me; However, I consider it not very material which house I am in, for you may be assured that all matters that particularly respect the Town of Danvers shall be noticed by me. Permit me to congratulate you on the anniversary of our independance this day; and 'tho' our cruel enemies still continue their endeavours to Subjugate us, yet I have good reason to hope the time is not far distant when they must give up their unjust pretensions and that we shall then enjoy the blessing of Liberty & peace and hand down to posterity the rights of men inviolate which will be a full reward for our labour & care.

I am, Gentlemen, with sincere respect, your most obliged humble servant.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ For further information on Holten's election as a representative from Danvers to the Massachusetts General Court and as a member of the Governor's Council, see Holten's Diary, June 19, 1780; and the preceding entry.

James Lovell to Benjamin Lincoln

Dear Sir,

July 4th. 1780

I inclose the Resolves you may need.¹

Last Evening Mr. Turnbull informed me that he is told by a Mr. Livingston of Carolina "to sell the Sloop Nancy & Cargo if she arrives here and to pay some Balance to Mr. Lovell for Genl. Lincoln." If this is any Business in which I can render you Service please to give me a memorandum. Mr. Turnbull, at present, knows nothing of the Vessel.²

I am affectionately, Yours,

James Lovell

RC (PHi: Dreer Collection).

¹ Probably Congress' June 23 resolves calling for an "enquiry to be made into the loss of Charlestown" (*JCC*, 17:551-52), although Lovell may also have enclosed any number of congressional resolves dealing with the defense of South Carolina.

² No further information on Lincoln's connection with the sloop *Nancy* has been found.

Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington

Sir Head quarters Totoway July 5 1780

The Inclosed packet was brought here by a person who could give no Information whence It came further than that he received It at Kings ferry; As It might Contain advices that the french fleet was arrived or on the point of arriving, I considerd It Incumbent on me as a member of Congress and one of these Committee (my Colleagues not being present) to risk opening It, that If It contained such advises as the Commander In Chief ought *decidedly* to be acquainted of and without delay I might be In Condition to afford the Information. I hope the reason I have assigned for the liberty I have taken will be Satisfactory to Congress, As the dispatch contained nothing which It was Immediately necessary for the General to know, I shall be Silent on the Occasion. Perhaps It may be for the Public Interest that the Committee should be expressly authorized to open Letters from Europe officially directed to Congress at this Important Juncture when a want of one days Information to the Commander In Chief may be attended with serious Consequences.¹

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedient Humble Servt, Ph. Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 153).

¹ This letter was read in Congress on July 10 together with six dispatches from Joseph Gardoqui & Son in Bilbao and John Adams in Paris. There is no indication which of them may have been included in the "Inclosed packet." *JCC*, 17:595. For the rationale employed when the committee opened another dispatch addressed to Congress, see the first letter of the Committee at Headquarters to Huntington of July 21.

Robert R. Livingston to John Jay

Dear John, Philadelphia 6th July 1780

Having just heard of an opportunity to write to you by the way of France I relieve the fatigue of an uninteresting debate in which our Friends Fell & Holton take the lead¹ to let you hear from me. If I have not been unfortunate you must at your arrival have found several Letters from me,² some of them written in our first cypher which you tell me has become useless so that they are probably unintelligible to you.³

I shall now confine myself to general subjects as my present cypher

is not at hand. I have been here since the 4th of Novr. very much against my inclinations & know not how much longer I may be detained. Mr. D—— is gone home,⁴ & as he has views upon your old seat he will hurry back to be in time & he assures me that I shall have *leave to go* immediately upon his return, & as I do not look the same way I think I shall indulge him. You have I dare say heard of poor Morris misfortune in the loss of his leg. He bears it with magnanimity & is in a fair way of recovery. I feel for him & yet am led to hope that it may turn out to his advantage & tend to fix his desultory genius to a point in which case it can not fail to go far.

As I know the interest you take in what may contribute to my happiness, I venture to inform you of a domestick occurrence by which it is greatly increased, the birth of a daughter. I saw your son⁵ at headquarters about two months ago. He is a fine healthy boy and the Idol of his grandmother. Now I am speaking of her, I must tell you that she was so imprudent as to remove with her family to Elizabeth town, where she was vissited by the enemies whole army, who treated her with civility as I learn by a letter to Mrs Morris from Caty. But their troops being very hardly treated by the New Jersey Militia on a second vissit they made to Springfield, which they burnt, they called a second time at the Govrs., & were with great difficulty prevented from burning the house by Mrs. Liv., Mr. Livingston not being at home. You are happy in being far from this scene of trouble. The enemy by the reduction of Charlestown have obliged us to make large detachments from the main army and by returning with the greater part of their force have kept us in continual motion, tho fortunately they are now again by the aid of the militia shut up in New York. And we are waiting in anxious expectation the arrival of the French armament in order to attempt some thing important. In the mean while we shall need great assistance from the court at which you now are to enable us to make some arrangement of our finances, from the disorder of which our greatest evils flow. These however are by no means remediless; they want much attention, & some support from our allies to put them upon the best & most stable footing. I forgot to mention that I have recd. within this few days your Letter from Cadiz.⁶ I was mortified to such a degree at not hearing from you while at Martinique that I could not bring myself to continue writing as I had done till your Last convinc'd me that I was not forgotten. I have seen Mrs. Jays journal,⁷ feel her distress, admire her fortitude & offer her my congratulations upon her present agreeable situation. You will offer my compliments to the Coll. & Mr. Carmichael, & receive my best wishes for your happiness. I am Dear John with the sincerest esteem, Your friend & hum. servt.

Robt R. Livingston

¹ Apparently this day's debate on the quartermaster general's salary, in which both John Fell and Samuel Holten played an active role. *JCC*, 17:589.

² See Livingston to Jay, December 22, 1779, and February 10, 1780.

³ For a discussion of the ciphers used by Jay and Livingston, see Jay, *Papers* (Morris), pp. 660-66.

⁴ That is, James Duane, whose last recorded vote in Congress was June 28. *JCC*, 17:569.

⁵ That is, Peter Augustus Jay, who was being cared for by his maternal grandmother, Susannah French Livingston.

⁶ See John Jay to Livingston, February 19, 1780, Jay, *Papers* (Morris), pp. 735-37.

⁷ For Sarah Livingston Jay's "journal" of her voyage to Spain, see *ibid.*, pp. 680-86.

Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington

Head Quarters near Pasaick falls

Sir

July 6, 1780

The Commander in chief has suggested the propriety of Investing the Committee here with power to Call any of the Continental ships of war which may be In the Adjacent seas to such points as the exigency of the Service may require; That their aid will be necessary In the prosecution of the Intended operation is beyond a doubt and the delay which must of course take place from a previous application to the Admiralty to direct them to a Compliance with the wishes of the General may prove so detrimental that I conceive It ought not to be risqued.

As the Subsistance money to the Officers of the line for the retained rations has not been paid for some time past, they are reduced to great distress, and have become exceedingly uneasy. Remonstrances have been on foot and would Already have been transmitted to Congress, had not the prudent Intervention of the General prevented the Increase for the present, I apprehend the Committee will be under the necessity of directing the Commissaries to furnish them In Actual Service with all the rations they are Intitled to, until the pleasure of Congress is known. Permit me Sir to Suggest the necessity of some decision on the Subject by Congress.¹

I have the honor to be, with perfect respect & Esteem, Your Excellencys Most Obedient, Humble Servant, Ph. Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39).

¹ Schuyler's letter was read in Congress on July 10, when the paragraph "as relates to the frigates" was referred to the Board of Admiralty. The following day the second paragraph "as relates to subsistance of the army" was referred to the Board of Treasury. The Board of Admiralty failed to report, but the Board of Treasury recommended on July 18 that "the paymaster general be enabled to pay the subsistance money," but that it was "inexpedient to permit the commissaries of issues to furnish the retained rations, in lieu of the subsistance money allowed to officers of the line." *JCC*, 17:595, 603, 639.

Philip Schuyler to John Mathews and Nathaniel Peabody

Gentlemen

Head quarters Totoway. July 6th 1780

A Slight Indisposition retarded my return from Windsor until Yesterday. Since my arrival at this place the General has made me communications on some matters which will claim the Earliest Attention of the Committee. I have therefore to Intreat you to repair hither as soon as possible.¹

If you can find any Short forrage at Morristown It will be prudent to bring as much with You as You Conveniently Can as none is to be procured here.

I am very Sincerely, Your Obedient Hbl Servant,

P Schuyler

RC (DNA: PCC, item 153).

¹ For the movements of Washington and the members of the committee in June and July, see Committee at Headquarters to Washington, June 24, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Holten to Benjamin Wadsworth

My Dear Sir,¹

Phila. July 7th. 1780

You are my only correspondent that I shou'd have wrote a 3d time² to without hearing from him; But being loth to give up a correspondence which was so agreeable on my side & being sensible that I was much wanting in answering your favors so fully as they deserved *'tho' I could plead some excuse*, induces me to write once more.

I have taken great pains for twelve months past to convince my correspondents in Court of the state to which the depreciation of our currency wou'd reduce us, but I saw it was impossible to convince all of them or the good people in general untill they were brought to feel its effects very fully, which I beleive they begin to do; and now I think the greatest danger in that respect is over, 'tho' it will still continue very heavy while the taxes called for are collecting. But I perceive the states are coming into the resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March last respecting finance which will greatly releive them; at the time their resolutions passed, & *I have seen no reason to alter my opinion*, I considered our all in a great measure under God depended thereon, & it gave me much concern to hear that some of the states did not at first see it. However, the old saying is better late than never.

I have not time to add, but bear upon my mind that lumenier morning conversation with you which I hope to enjoy in Augt. next.

Please to make my proper compliments to your Lady.

I am, Sir, with Sincere respect your most obedt.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten, and endorsed by him: "Copy of a letter to the Revd. Mr. Wadsworth. July 7th 1780."

¹ Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth has been identified in these *Letters*, 12:329n.3.

² No previous letter of Holten to Wadsworth has been found, but Holten noted in his diary that he wrote nine letters to Wadsworth while he attended Congress. *Ibid.*, 10:321n.1.

Samuel Huntington to Joseph Reed

Sir, Philada. July 7. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 6th Instant herewith enclosed your Excellency will be informed that they have directed the Board of Treasury to supply the President & Supreme Executive Council of this State with Bills of Exchange drawn on the Minister of the United States at the Court of France to the Amount of one thousand Pounds Sterling for which the said State is to be accountable.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c &c, S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ *JCC*, 17:590. For Reed's July 6 letter to the Pennsylvania delegates instructing them to request this special issuance of bills of exchange, which he justified on the ground of the large advances of supplies recently provided by the state on Continental account, see *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:392-93.

John Armstrong, Sr., to John Davis

Dear Sir, Philada. 8th July 1780

For these few days past this place afords but little News. The Enemy remain at Philips's House on the N. Side of Hudsons River, but have yet made no attempt toward Westpoint. A private letter from Baltimore brings intelligence that a French as well as a Spanish Fleet (of the latter we heard some time ago) is arrived at Martinique, but for what purposes, or exactly of what Size we have not yet learned.

The Enemy in South Carolina according to our last advices possessed three different Posts whereby they command the principal part of the provisions of that State, One at Camdon, One on the Congaree, and a third pointing toward the disaffected highlanders in North Carolina. Each of those Posts are upward of One hundred miles West of Charlestown. Fourteen hundred of the disaffected in the back parts of South Carolina are Said to have joined the british & their numbers daily growing. On the Other hand Genl. Caswell from North Carolina had Set out with fourteen hundred Militia to be followed by Others in Order to prevent a junction of the Enemy with the highlanders at Cross-Creek. Baron DeCalb, as I understand it, is forming a Circuituous March North West of the Enemy in Order to get betwixt them & Charlate in South Carolina, a place where we

have Some military Stores. General Gates appears to have a Sufficient Spot of Work cut out for him, Yet the Enemy cannot exceed four thousand, except what increase they may have through the disaffected of these States which it's feared will be many & occasion what more Strictly may be called a Civil War. The Governors of South Carolina & Georgia are both here which is very wrong, but Governor Rutledge will Suddenly return.¹ In a New Plan for the Qr. Masters Department now before Congress It is proposed that only One Assistant Qr. M. Gl., will be allow'd—and he to reside near Congress. One Deputy Qr. Master in each State to procure Carriages &c. he is to be named by the Qr. Master Genl. but must be approved by the Supreme Council of each State & the Board of War—he will have Clerks or assistants, but without Forage or rations. No Forage Master farther to be allowed but with the Army.² The pay of this State Qr. Master is not yet fixed. In Pennsylvania he will have much Work. Who will Genl. Greene pitch on for this State? It is not yet known whether he will Serve but as the System is only designed for the Campaign, it's thought he will. His pay is to be about 15 hundred a year or at the rate thereof in hard money including his pay as Major General.

Mrs. Armstrong has wrote me for £150 & I cannot Send her One pound but have refered her to you & said I wou'd write you. I hope you will be able to Oblige her with that Sum or what She may Stand in need of. You have wrote nothing of the Rum whether you got it or not. Does the Old black mare Stumble dangerously when She rides Slow, or does She not? I send you the last News paper in my possession which is better than that of this day.

Four thousand hard has been refused for our Works—the Company Asked Six. If you See Josey Thornbrogh please to tell him that in my Opinion five thousand is the mark. I lay Sick when Mr. Egie was here, else I believ we Shou'd have dealt. My Compliments to Coll. Magaw &c.

I am dear Coll Yours in haste,

John Armstrong

RC (DLC: Davis Papers).

¹ John Rutledge, the governor of South Carolina, had come to Philadelphia with a number of other prominent South Carolinians after the fall of Charleston. Richard Howly, the governor of Georgia, was also a delegate to Congress and had just taken his seat on July 6. *JCC*, 17:588.

² For the quartermaster plan "now before Congress," see Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington, June 17, 1780, note 1.

Samuel Holten to Francis Dana

My Dr. Sir

Philada. July 8th 1780

I shall make no apology for this address farther than assuring you that personal respect is my principal inducement.

The depreciation of our currency has greatly embarrassed the public affairs, but I think the resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March last respecting finance, (which I suppose you have seen) has produced a crisis; and I think with proper care the credit of the new bills will be kept up.

The fall of Charlestown at first seemed to give a considerable shock, but it has had this happy effect, the good people appear to be all arrived & are making much greater exertions than I have reason to think they would have done (this campaign) had Charles town remained in our hands.

Gen. Clinton has returned to N. York, it is said with 6000 troops, they have lately been out in the state of N. Jersey in force & burnt Springfield, but the militia turned out with uncommon bravery, and opposed them with great spirit, together with part of the Continental troops under the command of G. Green who recd. them so warmly they tho't proper to retreat; It has been tho't *lately* by their movements that they intended to attack West point, but the country are so much alarmed & G.W. is moving towards the north river, I expect they will return to N.Y. after burning distroying & collecting forrage in their usual manner.

We are looking out every day for our fleet & army from our ally to assist us, God grant they may come safe.

By the last accounts from Boston, I understand our new proposed constitution has been approved of by more than two thirds of the voters at the several Town meetings & is to take place in Octr. next.¹

Affairs are going on agreeably in Congress excepting our common embarrassments.

I inclose a Boston paper which contains a list of our Assembly.

I expect to return to Boston in a few weeks & it wou'd give me sensible pleasure to hear from you. I shall consider it as a favor if you'll forward the inclosed to Mr. Carmichal.²

Please to make my proper compliments to Mr. Adams. I am, Sir, with sincere respect your most obedt Servt.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ The new Massachusetts constitution was declared approved by the constitutional convention on June 15. For the complex manner of its approval, see Stephen E. Patterson, *Political Parties in Revolutionary Massachusetts* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1973), pp. 244-47.

² Not identified.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada July 8. 1780
I have the Honor to transmit you an Act of Congress of the 7th

Instant, in Answer to the Note you were pleased to lay before them, By which you will be informed that they have recommended to the State of Maryland, to grant Permission to such Agent as the Minister of France shall appoint to purchase within that State any Quantity of Flour not exceeding three thousand Barrels, and to ship the same to such Colonies of his Catholic Majesty as the Minister of France may direct.¹ This recommendation I have no Doubt will be readily complied with, and that notwithstanding these United States under their present Circumstances, are not in a Situation to admit of any considerable Export of Provision, yet that Congress will from Time to Time afford such Supplies to the Colonies of his Catholic Majesty as their Circumstances may require and the Situation of these States enable them to grant.

I have the honor to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The enclosed July 7 resolves were adopted by Congress in response to a June 28 letter from La Luzerne requesting permission to export provisions from the United States to Havana to provide for troops recently sent to Cuba by the Spanish court to make a diversion against British posts in America. La Luzerne's appeal was referred to a committee consisting of Joseph Jones, Robert R. Livingston, and George Walton on July 1, and the committee reported the recommendations contained in the enclosed resolves this day. See *JCC*, 17:580, 592-94; PCC, item 95, 1:108-11; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:822.

Huntington also sent the same resolves this day to Maryland governor Thomas Sim Lee. Red Books, MdAA.

Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philadelphia July 8. 1780

Enclosed you will receive an Act of Congress of the first Instant by which you will be informed, that in Consideration of the Bravery and distinguished Merit of the late Major General Warren Congress have thought proper in Addition to what hath been already done, to recommend to the Executive of the State of Massachusetts Bay to make Provision for the Education of his three younger Children, and resolved to defray the Expence thereof to the Amount of the half Pay of a Major General, to commence at the Time of his Death, and to continue until the Youngest of the said Children shall be of Age.¹

I have the Honor to be, with great Esteem & respect, Sir, your most obedt servant,

Sam Huntington President

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ *JCC*, 17:581. For previous efforts to provide for the orphans of Joseph Warren,

see these *Letters*, 6:458-60, 12:111-12; and Massachusetts Delegates to Samuel Adams and John Hancock, November 19, 1779.

Henry Laurens to Samuel Huntington

Sir. Philadelphia 8th July 1780

I am possessed in right of William Wilkinson Esquire of seven Loan Office Certificates for one Thousand Dollars each, on which there became due the 26th December last, for two Years Interest, Eight hundred & Forty Dollars Payable in Bills of Exchange.

These Certificates were Issued by James Green Esqr. Treasurer & Loan Officer in the State of North Carolina; I called on that Gentleman the 5th June last at New Bern & demanded payment of the Interest abovementioned to which he returned the following answer in writing.

"Sir New Bern 5 June 1780

"I am not prepared to pay off the Interest due on the within mentioned Certificates by Bills of Exchange on France, having never received any Blank Bills from Congress or the Treasury."

I am &c James Green jr."

I am also possessed in my own right of five Loan Certificates issued in the State of Georgia. Vizt.

1—the 7th March 1778 for 1000 Dols.

4—the 3d April 1778 for 200 each 800

1800.

for these I advanced the full Value of principal & Interest to a very distressed Gentleman who left that State when it fell into the hands of the Enemy, I my self am now reduced to his circumstances.

In the first of these Instances the Non Payment of Interest is the effect of omission on the part of Congress or their Agents; respecting the latter, it is now impossible to receive payment of either Interest or Principal in Georgia, therefore I beg leave to submit both Cases to the consideration of Congress, assured that they will, without the additional greivance of delay, cause right & justice to be done, for the relief of Individuals & for the conservation of the National faith & Credit of the United States of America.¹

With sentiments of the highest Respect, I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Excellency's Most Obedient servant, Henry Laurens.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 89).

¹ Laurens' appeal for the payment of interest on these loan office certificates was referred on July 10 to the Board of Treasury, whose July 18 report was ordered

recommitted when it was taken up two days later. There is no other mention of the matter in the journals. See *JCC*, 17:596, 640, 648.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Sir

Philadelphia July 9th. 1780

I do myself the honour, to inclose to your Excellency, the late Newspapers; to which I must beg liberty, to refer for News. I have not one word to write. Congress have received no dispatches for a week past. I also inclose you, the proceedings upon the motion I made in Congress, for a Warrant to Issue in favour of the State for 300,000 Dollars. I only wait a favourable opportunity to renew my Motion, How far I shall succeed I can not Say.¹ The bills of Exchange I mentioned in my last² that would be sent to the State are again stopt by a Quarrel between the Treasury Board and Keeper of the Loan office in this City.³ There is such a fatallity attends them that I dispare of any being Sent. Delicacy forbids my mentioning the constant obstruction our publick business meets with by the Quarrels and petty disputes that are subsisting between the Several Boards and Civil officers serving under Congress, of which there is by far two large a Number I am Confident more then the Continent can maintain. It would suprise you to se the Constant grants that are made them. Many members wish to lessen their Numbers they are appointed and have their friends and how to get rid of them is the Question. Mr. Henry Lawrens Sails to morrow from this place for Europe as Commissioner from these States to the United Provinces to Negociate a Loan if possible.⁴

By the last Intiligence from the Army they were well fed. Our fears that they would suffer for want of bread is much abated. The New Crop is now Harvesting and is like to be a plentiful one, insted of not a Quarter as was reported a little time back.

I have the honour to be, your Excely. most obedt Huml
Servant,
Ezek Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ The journals record only a motion made on June 10 "by the delegate for the State of Rhode Island, for an advance of money to that State," which was referred to the Board of Treasury. *JCC*, 17:502.

² Cornell is referring to Rhode Island's share of the bills of exchange to be drawn on the American commissioners in France. See Cornell to Greene, June 30, 1780, note 3.

³ Dissension within the treasury department had recently flared up again when Francis Hopkinson, the treasurer of loans, had refused to permit the commissioners of the treasury to withdraw an order after it was delivered to him for execution, perhaps in pique over the trouble he was experiencing in obtaining the settlement of some personal accounts before the board. The matter had been referred on July 3 to a committee which reported "That the superintending boards have an undoubted

right to repeal and countermand . . . any order officially issued and delivered," but as a sop to Hopkinson declared that in such instances a superseding order should be issued, to permit other officials involved to retain such original orders for preservation with their official records. See *JCC*, 17:585, 597-98.

The adoption of this committee recommendation by Congress on July 10 did not resolve the matter, however, for Hopkinson simultaneously submitted a list of his own grievances against the commissioners that was referred to the same committee, escalating antagonism within the department and triggering a series of investigations and reports that occupied Congress into early 1781, when the movement for administrative reform resulted in the creation of new executive departments of government.

The background of this controversy has been reviewed by Edward F. Robinson, "Continental Treasury Administration, 1775-1781: A Study in the Financial History of the American Revolution" (Ph.D. diss., University of Wisconsin, 1969), pp. 246-51. For the next round in the struggle between Hopkinson and the commissioners, William Denning, Ezekiel Forman, and John Gibson, see Committee of Congress to the Treasury Commissioners, August 7, 1780.

⁴ Henry Laurens did not actually leave for Holland until August 13, when he sailed on the packet *Mercury* escorted by the armed ship *Saratoga*. Paullin, *Marine Committee Letters*, 2:242-43.

Samuel Adams to John Adams

My dear Sir

Philadelphia July 10 1780

I wrote to you several Times when I was at Boston, and receivd your Favor by the Marquis de la Fayette. Another, to which you referd me, has not yet come to hand. This Letter will be deliverd to you by Mr Searl,¹ a Member of Congress for the State of Pennsylvania. He will be better able to inform you of the State of things here, than I can, who after twelve Months Absense from this City, returned but a few days ago. The People of Massachusetts have at length agreed to the Form of a civil Constitution,² in Nothing varying from a Copy which I sent to you by a Son of our Friend General Warren.³ This great Business was carried through with much good Humour among the People and even in Berkshire, where some Persons led us to expect it would meet with many obstructions. Never was a good Constitution more wanted than at this Juncture. Among other more lasting Advantages, I hope that in Connsequence of it, the Part which that State must take in the War, will be conducted with greater Attention and better Effect. Who is to be the first Man, will be determind in September, when, if our Newspapers rightly inform us, the new Government is to take Place. The Burden will fall on the Shoulders of one of two Gentlemen whom you know.⁴ May Heaven lead the People to the wisest Choice. The first chosen governor may probably have it in his Power to do more good or more Hurt than any of his Successors. The french Fleet is not yet arrivd. Perhaps their long Passage may turn out for the best. An earlier Arrival might have found us not altogether prepared to co-operate with them to the best Advantage. I now think we shall be

ready to joyn them. One would think the Exertion which America might make with such Aid, would rid us of British Barbarians. I hope this will be a vigorous and an effective Campaign. I left Massachusetts exceedingly active in filling up their Battalions by Drafts, besides raising 4000 Militia for the Service.

Mr Laurens arrivd here from the Southward a few Days past. He will speedily embark for Holland to prosecute a Business which you are not unacquainted with. Adieu my dear Sir, yr affectionate Friend,
S.A.

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ James Searle, a member of Congress and a Philadelphia merchant, was about to embark for Europe as an agent for Pennsylvania to obtain a foreign loan for the state. See Mildred E. Lombard, "James Searle: Radical Businessman of the Revolution," *PMHB*, 59 (July 1935): 284-94.

² See Samuel Holten to Francis Dana, July 8, 1780, note.

³ See Adams, *Writings* (Cushing), 4:187-88.

⁴ That is, James Bowdoin, president of the Massachusetts Council, and John Hancock, who was elected the first governor of Massachusetts.

Thomas Bee to Isaac Smith

Sir,¹

Philadelphia 10 July 1780

I recived your favour of the 26th Ult. this Morning & am glad I have it in my power to satisfy to your wishes respecting the Situation of your Cousin Mr Smith's family² which I can now do more fully having recived a Letter this Day from his Son Benjamin, who was in Charles Town during the Seige & is now a Prisoner on parole with his family in the Country. Mr Smith himself with Mrs. Smith & one Daughter & Mr. Roger Smiths family were at his Plantation about 18 Miles from Town during the Seige. The Enemy were frequently at his House but he has not suffered any loss by them except that of one or two of his Negroes who Joined them—his four Sons were all in the Town, but his Son Peter was so Ill, as to be obliged to leave it some time before the surrender, & went to his family at Mr. Middletons, whose Daughter he married, & who had removed about 120 Miles into the Country, we have since heard he is better. The others escaped without hurt in the Town, and are now prisoners on Parole. Mrs. Bee & one of her Sisters with our two little ones, are with me in Philadelphia. Our last Accounts from the family are that they were all well in health, though much dejected in Spirits on Account of the situation of Affairs in our Country, however hitherto their property is safe, except the Houses in Town which are all occupied in part by the British. This is in general the best account I can render you of the situation of the family, which I am happy in communicating, as you so feelingly simpathise with their Distress.

I am glad to hear you received the Certificates safe, & thank you

for your kind offer of Transacting any thing for me at Boston, but at present I have no prospect of giving you any trouble of this sort—though if any Opportunity should Offer for this place before November by Water, & you could procure me half a quintal of Salt fish, I should be much Obligated to you to send it me, & the price, & the money I would forward by Post, it would help out our scanty fare here, & be very convenient on our Journey back, for we hope to return about November, and at least get back so far as to see some of our Friends & endeavour to save part of my property which is now intirely at the mercy of the Enemy.

The Affair of Capt Duart, came before Congress a few Days after I had taken my Seat there, the Injustice he had recived before, induced me though an Intire Stranger to the Matter to Interest myself warmly in his behalf, & I Am happy in mentioning that I made the Motion in Congress, that the prosecution to be carried on, agt. the Captain & Owners of the Privateers should be at the Expence of the United States, I am in hopes he has at length received the Justice, he ought to have Experienced two Years ago. He is returned to Boston to reserve what was left there, & I am informed is fully satisfied with this last determination of Congress, but not being Acquainted with him myself I never had the pleasure of seing him while here, what I did in the Matter was intirely from Motives of Justice.³ Mrs. Bee desires to Join in our best respects to yourself & family, I am Sir, your very Obt. hum Servt. Tho. Bee

[P.S.] I shall be happy to hear from you when Oppertunity & leisure permits & will with pleasure communicate any thing that may Occur from hence worth mentioning.

RC (MHi: Smith-Carter Papers).

¹ Isaac Smith is identified in these *Letters*, 1:452.

² That is, the family of Thomas Smith (1720-90) of "Broom Hall" in South Carolina, for which see Walter B. Edgar, et al., eds., *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974-), 2:641-43.

³ For the background of the "Affair of Capt Duart," in which the Portuguese snow *Our Lady of Mount Carmel* and *St. Anthony*, Capt. Juan García Duarti, was illegally seized by the schooner *Phoenix*, Capt. Joseph Cunningham, see these *Letters*, 8:203n, 9:667n, and 13:158n, 184n. The case was successfully concluded on June 19, 1780, when Congress ordered the payment of the proceeds from the ship's cargo and granted Duarti the right to bring suit against "any person or persons that may be justly deemed guilty of the seizure and capture . . . such prosecution to be at the expence of the United States." See *JCC*, 17:498, 505, 528-30.

Committee at Headquarters to Certain States

In Committee of Congress
Preakness, New Jersey, July 10. 1780

Sir,
The Commander in Chief, having laid before this Committee, let-

ters from the quarter master general, and Commissary General of forage, stating the necessity of immediately forming a magazine of short forage, in the vicinity of Hudsons river; It will readily occur to your excellency, that without this article, the necessary transportation, to convey the variety of stores incident on a large operating Army, cannot be maintained. They have therefore to intreat your earliest attention to expedite the orders for forwarding, *the quantity requiried of your state, by the Committee.*¹ This state, by supplying the Army during the winter, and to the present hour, is intirely exhausted. The failure of crops last year, in the state of New york, and the drafts made from it, for the support of the Cattle of West Point, have rendered that state incapable of furnishing any for the present, so that our main reliance, at least until some time after the present crop is gathered, must be on the states south of Delaware.

We have the honor to be, with great respect, Your Excellency's most Obt. Hble. Servts.

Php. Schuyler,

Nathl. Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Addressed: "Circular to the States of Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland & Virginia."

¹ At the bottom of the letterbook copy is the following substitute passage for the state of Virginia in lieu of the underscored: "forwarding so much of the quantity required of your state, as can possibly be spared agreeable to the resolution of Congress, permitting you to retain what should be necessary for the southern operations." For the resolution referred to, see *JCC*, 17:524.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress, state of New Jersey
Sir
Preakness, July 10th 1780

The commander in chief having laid before this Committee letters from the quarter-master general, and commissary general of forage, respecting tents and forage which appeard to be matters of such vast Consequences as induced us to address the States, South of Delaware to Virginia inclusive on the subject of the Latter, and the associated Merchants of Philadelphia, on the former.¹

The scarcity of Flour in the States North of Delaware; The little probability of any effectual supply from those States, for a very considerable time beyond harvest, as many of the inhabitants will be taken off, by Militia duty, either with the Army or to protect the frontiers, or be employed in the necessary transportation, excites a wish that the associated Merchants should lay out and forward the whole amount of their funds in that article. But the danger and distress which the Army will be exposed to, for want of *tents* should it operate in a part of the Country where there are no materials for

a substitute, is so evident that it admits of no alternative, and obliges us to call on them for a supply; we have however only requested one thousand, in hopes that some may be procured from the Navy board at Boston. It is probable the commander in chief will address the Eastern Merchants to afford their aid, on the occasion, and to extend it to the article of sand bags, and knapsacks, the former of which, in a serious operation seem almost indispensable, especially if the Army should operate in a part of the Country, so destitute of wood that gabions and fascines cannot be procured, without great expense and labour. Perhaps, Sir, it might not be improper for Congress to give assurances that if any associations should take place to the Eastward to furnish the Articles we have mentioned, or any others necessary for the service, the associators should in point of security for their disbursements be put on the same footing with those in Pennsylvania. Should the house be in sentiment with us on this subject, a speedy communication of their determination may tend to expedite the business.

The uncertain footing on which the officers in the quarter master generals department now stand will occasion many to resign, unless their stipends are ascertained. It is therefore much to be wished that an immediate determination of Congress on the arrangement of that department, should be conveyed to the General or the committee. We do not allude merely to a system for conducting it; for how can one be adopted that will apply to contingencies remote, and which no human penetration can foresee or guard against? To direct the movements of supplies to be drawn from such a variety of sources, and by the different channels which the very nature of state supplies renders unavoidable and through the agencies of state officers, unaccountable to the Military, or to one conducting body, will be a task infinitely arduous, and we fear it will not be effectually done, even with the best exertions of the public officers, without the frequent intervention of Congress by some of its members repairing, as occasion may require, to this or that state, to give countenance, aid, & advice to the agents.

Should the quantity of Flour and short forage accumulated on the banks of the Delaware exceed the means of transportation by land would it not be advisable to take measures for speedily collecting a number of Vessels to convey it to the bay of New York, should the French fleet gain that point, and the passage from Delaware thither be rendered safe by any Ships of War which might be appointed to convoy the provision transport?

We have the honor to be, With great respect and esteem, Your Excellencys Most obedient humble. Sevt, P. Schuyler

N. Peabody²

P.S. The Comtee have done themselves the Honr. to Inclose your Excely Copy of the Addresses alluded to in the affore written letters.

FC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher. Corrections in the hand of Philip Schuyler.

¹ Nathanael Greene's letter of July 7 and Clement Biddle's letter of the preceding day concerning the shortage of forage are in PCC, item 39, 3:255-60; Greene's letter of July 8 relating to tents is in the Washington Papers, DLC. For Washington's July 10 letter to Congress, which was read July 13, see *JCC*, 17:609; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:150-51. For the committee's "address to the States," see the preceding entry; for its letter to "the associated Merchants of Philadelphia," see the following document. This letter, with its enclosures, was read in Congress July 14. *JCC*, 17:710-11.

² Peabody had joined Schuyler at headquarters following Schuyler's appeal from Toroway, for which see Schuyler to John Mathews and Peabody, July 6, 1780. Mathews, however, had written to the other two committee members from Morristown on July 9 that his wife's "alarming indisposition" required his presence in Philadelphia "for at least a few days." See PCC, item 78, 16:57.

Committee at Headquarters to the Philadelphia Merchants' Association

In Committee of Congress,
Gentlemen, Preakness, New Jersey, July 10, 1780.

The scarcity of flour in the states North of the Delaware—the little probability that they will be in a condition to furnish any until some considerable time beyond harvest, induces a wish that the whole amount of the fund you have, with such partriotic generosity created for the relief of your Country at this critical juncture, should be expended in the purchase and transportation of that article, but the exceeding distress the Army would experience for a want of Tents, and the little probability of procuring an adequate supply in any other quarter, obliges the Committee to intreat you to appropriate part of the fund in the purchase of one thousand soldiers Tents. The General has requested the Committee to take measures for obtaining this necessary article with every possible degree of dispatch.¹

We have the honor to be, with the highest consideration of esteem,
Gentlemen, Your Most Obt. & very H Servts,

P. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Addressed: "To the Gentlemen of Philadelphia, appointed to procure and forward supplies to the Army."

¹ For the fund raised by the Philadelphia merchants, see Philip Schuyler to Washington, June 18, 1780, note 2. For the additional efforts made to procure tents, see Samuel Huntington to Certain States, July 21, 1780.

William Churchill Houston's Proposed Report

July 10th, 1780.

The Committee to whom were referred the Letter from General

Washington of 31st March last, and the Proceedings of the Commissioners who met at Amboy in the Same Month to treat of the Settlement of a Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners of War, beg Leave to state to Congress the following Information and remarks.¹

That the Troops of the Convention of Saratoga have been since the Time of their Capture, and still continue to be furnished with rations of Provisions and Fuel at the Expense of the United States.

That no Payment has been made on the Part of the British Government for the said Provisions and Fuel, since the Departure of General Burgoyne; and though formal Application has been made for a Settlement and Discharge of the Accounts, or an Acknowledgement of the Debt and a proper Assurance of Payment, both have been first evaded and then refused.

That your Committee, from certain Circumstances in the Conduct and Declarations of the Enemy, are of Opinion the British Government mean to dispute the Justice of allowing those Accounts, especially of such as have accrued since the General commanding their Troops in America officially declared to Congress his Authority to ratify, on the Part of the British King, the Convention of Saratoga.

That should this be the Case the Decision of the Matter will, in all Probability, be submitted to a mediating or arbitrating Power; and if Principles of Policy rather than Right should sway, the Interest of the United States, in this respect, may be sacrificed to Considerations of Convenience.

That the Support of the said Troops is productive of very heavy Expenses, and in the Opinion of your Committee, considering the Uncertainty of Retribution, more hurtful to the Community than their Service in the Field, if exchanged, would probably be.

That it might be attended with unfavourable Consequences to suffer the Enemy to have a free Intercourse by Flags of Truce to supply the said Troops with necessaries.

That great Numbers of the said Troops escape from Time to Time, many of whom make their way to the Enemy in New-York and elsewhere so that not more than Half the original Number now remain; and the United States lose the Benefit of their Exchange.

That a principal Difficulty which prevents the Settlement of a Cartel for the Exchange of Prisoners, is the Pride and Obstinacy of the British Government which prevents them from empowering their General to pledge any Thing further than his personal Honour for the Performance of such Stipulations as may be agreed on by Commissioners on both Sides; but as Exchanges have from Time to Time been made *pro tanto*, without the Establishment of a regular Cartel, and in present Circumstances, no other Mode can be expected soon to take Place.

The Committee submit the following Resolution.

That General Washington be fully empowered to negotiate an

Exchange of the Troops of the Convention of Saratoga, at such Time, in such Manner and on such Terms as lie may think proper.

That in any Negotiation upon this Subject it be an Instruction to obtain Payment as far as possible, of the monies due for Provisions and Fuel furnished to the said Troops on Account of the United States; and, if the same cannot be fully obtained, to procure, if possible, an Assurance that all Differences upon that Subject will hereafter be submitted to proper Discussion and Settlement, that an impartial Decision thereof may be had.

Provided always, That Nothing respecting the said Accounts be made an Ultimatum in any Treaty of Exchange.

MS (DNA: PCC, item 167). In the hand of William Churchill Houston. Endorsed: "Proposed as Principles of a Report on Genl Washington's Letter of 31st March 1780 and Papers of Commissioners on Settlement of a Cartel. W C Houston. NB. Never agreed to by the Committee."

¹ Washington's March 31 letter, enclosing the commissioners' report of the March 9 meeting at Amboy, N.J., is in PCC, item 152, 8:483-86, and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 18:188-89. He related that the negotiations had been "as unsuccessful as all the former, and for the same cause." For "all the former" negotiations, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, January 14, 1780, note 2.

Washington's letter and the commissioners' report were read in Congress on April 6 and referred to a committee consisting of William Ellery, William Churchill Houston, and John Morin Scott. It is clear from Houston's endorsement on this proposed report that the committee could not agree on a final version, and was finally discharged, on Houston's motion, on October 13. See *JCC*, 16:333, 18:919. That same day the matter was referred to Theodorick Bland, John Mathews, and John Sullivan, the committee considering the spy case of Maj. John André. For the extensive report of this second committee, which was read in Congress on November 3 and adopted on the 7th, see *ibid.*, 18:918-19, 1009-10, 1028-31; and Samuel Huntington to Washington, November 12, 1780.

William Churchill Houston to John Jay

Sir,

Philada. 10 July 1780.

The principal military Event which has happened this Spring, indeed since you left us, is the Fall of Charleston, the Capital of South Carolina. No Circumstance very material can be added to the Account officially published, and which you have had from the Papers transmitted already and repeated by this Conveyance. It will, I hope be excused in us, that you will probably see this in the European Papers before it reaches you from this City: our Intelligence being over-land, is tedious in it's Passage; add to this that the Enemy after the Capitulation, interposed every Means by dilatory and frivolous Pretences, by what Candour will probably decide to be a Breach of the Spirit of their Engagements, to delay the Dispatches General Lincoln had stipulated should be forwarded immediately to Con-

gress. This you will readily believe when you compare the Date of the Surrender of the Town with that of the Arrival of Lieut Colonel Ternant at Philadelphia, and are advised withal that he met with no Obstruction on the Way. General Lincoln with his Family has since arrived.¹

We have daily Accounts from the Southward that the Enemy pay no regard to the Stipulations pledged in Favour of the Citizens. Rapines, Violences, Devastations and Abuses of every Kind are committed without reserve. You recollect their Conduct in New Jersey in the year 1776 and 7; it is similar in this Case, though they are under Terms. The Issue too may be like; they have overrun a considerable Part of the State in the Hour of its Nakedness and Debility, but as General Gates is assembling a Force against them, and their Measures seem as usual to be dictated by Infatuation, Impolicy and Ignorance, when they have wrought up the the Spirits of the People to Fury and Desperation they will be expelled from the Country.

It seems to be the Ordination of Providence, and, though the Sufferings are severe, the Interest of the States, that each should have a Share of this Kind of Calamity. It is clear and undisputed Experience that in those States where for a Time they have made Progress, and from whence they have been driven with Arms, or retired with Disappointment and Disgrace, the Flame of Liberty and Patriotism burns with double Strength and Brightness, and the Exertions of the People are greater and more deciding. The Militia of New Jersey and New-York, whose Vengeance against Great Britian Ages will not be able to eradicate, have in several late Instances fought them with the most desperate internecine Furry. We have *Not heard of such a Thing to the Southward* as yet, but may in due Time.

Every Person who has attended to the Course of our Revolution will know the Meaning of what seems a Paradox, 'that our Misfortunes are our Safety.' They are certainly, under GOD, the Source of it. Our Captive Soldiers will as usual be prisoned, starved and insulted, will be scourged into the Service of the Enemy; the Citizens will suffer Pillagings, Violences and Conflagrations; a fruitful Country will be desolated; but the Loss of Charleston will to all Appearance promote the general Cause. It has awaked a Spirit unknown since the Year 1776; a Spirit which is fast pervading the Mass of the Community; a Spirit which enlivens and encreases daily. I am more afraid of an unfavourable Effect of this Disaster on your Side of the Water, and hope you will take the proper Means for preventing any ill Impressions it might otherwise have.

The Enemy have brought back more than Half their [*troops*] from the Southward. Cornwallis commands with between four and five Thousand Men. At this Date they are at Kingsbridge and some miles above.

Governour Livingston and Family were well four Days ago.

I am, Sir your obedt hble Servant, Willm Ch Houston

RC (NNC: Jay Papers). Endorsed: "Recd. 5 Octr."

¹ Lt. Col. Jean-Baptiste Ternant had arrived in Philadelphia on June 14, more than a month after the May 12 surrender of Charleston; Gen. Benjamin Lincoln arrived on June 23. See Samuel Holten's Diary, June 14, note 1; and Oliver Ellsworth to Jonathan Trumbull, June 23, 1780.

James Lovell to John Adams

My dear sir

Philada. July 10. 1780

The Suddenness of Mr. Searle's Departure,¹ considering my different Engagements, will admit only of my putting up Journals, Gazettes &c., but, ample Compensation for the Want of my Detail of Affairs will be made to you by the Conversation of this Gentleman, who, being a member of Congress and late Chairman of the Commercial Committee is doubtless thoroughly capable of satisfying your Desire to know the State of the Continent & of our Finances.

I have ensured to him your cordial Attentions. He was present at our Ultimata-Discussions and testified his Regard for Fishermen whether they be Inhabitants of Savanna or Marblehead. Perhaps you may want some little Informations about those Debates. If he should need your Counsel in his Pursuits you may give it on a double Certainty of being thereby useful to your Country and of obliging your most affectionate humble Servant,

James Lovell

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ For James Searle's mission, see Samuel Adams to John Adams, this date, note 1.

James Lovell to Charles William Frederic Dumas

Sir,

Philadelphia, July 10, 1780.

I know not how I can profess all the regard which I feel for you, without appearing on the one hand, to do it upon slight grounds, or on the other, to have delayed it too long.

I have been steadily in Congress without once visiting my dear family in Boston, since January 1777, and from May, that year, have been a member of the committee of foreign affairs; consequently I am well informed of your truly republican spirit, your particular affection for these states, and your industry in their service, most of your numerous letters down to December the 30th, 1779, having come to hand.

The honourable gentleman who will deliver this, being also a member of Congress, has a just esteem for you, and promises himself much advantage from an opportunity of conversing with you. Mr.

Searle is well able to make a due return of the benefit from the fund of his intimacy with American state affairs, his extensive commercial knowledge and his science of mankind gained by former travails. I shall shortly write to you again, by another respectable gentleman of our assembly,¹ and I will use every means to make him the bearer of what you have so rightfully solicited, as a faithful *first* correspondent of our committee, from whom you will probably have regular official letters, under a new arrangement of a secretaryship,² which has been vacant from the days of a confusion excited by an indiscreet and illiberal publication, here on the 5th of December 1778, and which you have read with grief.³

In the meantime I hope you will receive kindly this individual testimony of cordial friendship, for sir, your very humble servant.

James Lovell

MS not found; reprinted from *The Port Folio*, 4 (January 28, 1804): 29-30.

¹ That is, Henry Laurens.

² Lovell may have been referring to plans for a department of foreign affairs, which had been referred to a committee appointed on May 15 whose recommendations were submitted on June 12. Congress, however, did not consider the committee's report until December 15, and only on January 10, 1781, was a department of foreign affairs established. See *JCC*, 17:428, 505, 18:1156, 19:42-44.

³ Lovell was referring to Thomas Paine's dismissal from the post of secretary to the Committee for Foreign Affairs.

Abraham Clark to Moore Furman

Sir,

Philada. July 11th. 1780.

Your Application for a draught of money on the Treasury of New Jersey was referred to the Treasury¹ who gave me encouragemt that a draught should issue to the amount of all the money due from the State to the Continent which I supposed would have been a great Advantage to the state as most of the Taxes would have been discounted with Creditors of the Publick, and would have given relief to the holders of Assigned Certificates; but this hath not taken place further than to Satisfie Mr. Marsh's disbursements: I wrote to the Assembly² to know their opinion on this Subject but they never favoured me with an Answer which left me at uncertainty how to Act, some Suggested that our Legislature intended to pay the Debt of the state by Charging provisions furnished the Army the fore part of last Winter; but, I thought it their Interest to Consider these Supplies as a part of the Specifick Supplies to be furnished this year, this I Acquainted the Legislature of & requested their directions, which not Obtaining, dare say but little on the Subject.

Our Wounded officers & Soldiers at Baskenridge are Suffering for want of bandages & lint for dressings, on which Subject, by order of

the Medical Committee I have taken the liberty to Address the enclosed Letter to your Lady.³

I am, Sir, Your Obedt. Humble Servt. Abra. Clark

RC (Nj: Stryker Collection). Addressed: "Moore Furman Esquire at Trenton."

¹ See *JCC*, 17:493.

² Not found.

³ See the following entry.

Medical Committee to Sarah Furman

Madam, Philada. July 11th. 1780

The Station you fill in the benevolent Society of Ladies in New Jersey formed for Obtaining Speedy Supplies for the Army, induces the Medical Committee of Congress to Address you in behalf of the Sick and wounded Officers and Soldiers now in the hospital at or near Baskinridge, most of whom were wounded in the late engagements at Springfield. By an express from thence sent on purpose to communicate their wants, we are informed they are wholly destitute of bandages and Lint for dressings, this is truly distressing that such articles should be wanted in a Country where there must be a plenty (except near the Army), but the Committee have not been able of late to procure those small but Necessary Articles, and are now Obligated to call for your Aid in this business; would the Ladies consent to exercise a part of their generosity in this way it will be of essential service. The Committee are persuaded no Arguments need be used on this pressing Occasion. Your Humanity for distressed Objects, and known Zeal for our Common Cause, will immediately Accomplish all that is wished, on this head.

I am, Madam, Your Obedt. Humble Servt.

(in behalf & by order of the Committee) Abra. Clark

RC (CSmH: Emmet Collection). Written and signed by Abraham Clark. Addressed: "Mrs. (Colo. Moore) Furman, at Trenton." Enclosed with Abraham Clark to Moore Furman, this date.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams

Sir 3d Copies Philada. 11 July 1780

Your Letters one of the 3d and three of the 4th of April were recd. in Congress yesterday.¹ We are to thank you for the Intelligence they contain and are, Sir, your very humble Servants,

James Lovell

Wm Churchill Houston²

P.S. Aug. 1st. Your various Letters by Mr. Izard were this day read

of dates from March 20th to 29.³ That of the 24th respecting two Points on which you wish for Instructions is committed specially to J L⁵

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). In the hand of James Lovell.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:595, and *PCC*, item 84, 1:387-94, 405-14. The letter of April 3 and one of those of April 4 are in Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:588-92, 596.

² Lovell dispatched several copies of this letter, adding postscripts *ad seriatim* to the original letter on August 1, October 28, and December 9, 1780. In addition to this "3d" copy, another RC of the original July 11 letter, written by Lovell and signed by Lovell and Houston, is also in the Adams Papers, MHi. The FC of the letter, with postscripts of August 1, October 28 and December 9, is in *PCC*, item 79, 1:275.

³ For the reading of these letters in Congress on August 1, see Samuel Huntington to John Adams, July 30, 1780.

⁴ In his letter of March 24, which had been assigned to a committee consisting of Lovell, John Henry, Thomas McKean, James Madison, and John Morin Scott, Adams had asked for additional negotiating instructions on the restitution of confiscated loyalist property and the mutual rights of citizens of Britain and America and of the British dominions. For the work of this committee and its recommendations, which were adopted by Congress on October 18, see *JCC*, 17:654, 685, 691, 18:911, 913, 948-50; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:572-73.

⁵ For the continuation of this letter, see Committee for Foreign Affairs to Adams, October 28, 1780, note 2.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams

In Committee of Foreign Affairs

Honorable John Adams Esqr.

Philada. 11 July 1780

The enclosed Resolutions and Comission will explain themselves;¹ and we have only to add a Request that in the Event of your not being able to undertake the Business to which they point, you will furnish Mr Dana with the Papers, as we have not Time to make out or procure other Copies for him.

We are, Sir, your obedt Servants,

James Lovell

Wm Churchill Houston

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). Written by Houston, and signed by Houston and Lovell.

¹ The "enclosed Resolutions and Commission" appointed Adams as agent to negotiate a loan in Holland if Henry Laurens was "prevented from proceeding on the said agency." Francis Dana was appointed as a substitute should Adams be unavailable. *JCC*, 17:534-37. For Adams' eventual appointment as Laurens' successor after the latter's capture in September, see Samuel Huntington to Adams, January 1, 1781. The American effort to negotiate with the United Provinces has been discussed at length in Jan Willem Schulte Nordholt, *The Dutch Republic and American Independence* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982), chaps. 6-11.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to Arnold Henry Dohrman

In committee for foreign Affairs
Philadelphia, July 11th. 1780

Sir,¹

Mr. George Anderson² of Virginia having informed us of the humane & benevolent Attention uniformly given by you to the Citizens of these States who have been so unfortunate as to be captured at Sea and carried into the ports of Portugal, we represented the same to Congress to whom it gave much pleasure to know that those Men had found a patron & Friend so disposed to alleviate their Distresses.

The inclosed Resolve³ constitutes you an Agent of Congress and you will from time to time receive Powers and Instructions from that Body through this Committee.

At present we need only say in general that the Affairs of the Citizens of America applying for Relief in Captivity are committed to your Discretion; and your Countenance & Advice in Matters of Business is solicited for Others.

We wish to learn from you in what Manner you would be repaid, trusting that, though the War in which this Republic is engaged oppresses it with Expence and calls now for all its Resources, you will by no Means fail in the End of Compensation. You must be governed in your Advances on Account of these United States more by that Economy which their Circumstances make essential than by the Liberality of your own Habits which American Objects in Distress will probably but too often stimulate. You ought to know that Doctr. Franklin & others who have advanced Monies to Americans under the Misfortune of Captivity have transmitted Receipts regularly so that due Charges may be made against those who are in the public Service, and Repayment may be had of those who are in Condition to make it while in private Employ.

You will correspond with our Ministers and Agents in France, Spain and Holland whenever you may thereby promote the Interests of these States for which you have manifested already so much Regard.

We are, Sir, Your most humble Servants,

James Lovell

William C. Houston

Tr (ScHi: Laurens Papers, no. 31). In the hand of James Lovell. Addressed: "Arnold Henry Dohrman, Merchant in Lisbon." Endorsed by Lovell: "To be Sunk in Case of Danger from the Enemy."

¹ Arnold Henry Dohrman (1749-1813), a merchant in Lisbon, Portugal, was appointed American agent in Lisbon on the strength of Patrick Henry's endorsement of a report from George Anderson explaining that Dohrman had provided aid to Americans there such as himself and might be useful in promoting the commercial

interest of the United States in Portugal. This letter enclosed Congress' June 21, 1780, resolution appointing Dohrman agent.

Details on Dohrman's work in Portugal are meager, but he later presented a claim to Congress for expenditures made on behalf of captured and stranded American seamen in the country, for which he was eventually compensated with a cash settlement and a large grant of land in Ohio. See *JCC*, 17:504, 541-542, 32:119-21, 33:586-88; Patrick Henry to the Virginia Delegates, May 23, 1780, in *PCC*, item 71, 1:339-42; and Alfred J. Morrison, "Arnold Henry Dohrman," *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* 23 (July 1914): 227-31. See also James Lovell to John Jay, this date.

² Probably the George Anderson (1756-1816) of Henry's home county of Hanover, Virginia. By his own testimony Anderson was captured and carried into Lisbon, where Dohrman aided him and many other American prisoners. He returned to America as Dohrman's agent and sought Dohrman's appointment as American agent in Lisbon and also proposed a joint venture between Dohrman and the United States "in a Vessel of Force, either to go to Lisbon, or Cadiz." Dohrman's "Scheme of War & Commerce with our States" was referred to the Board of Admiralty and the Committee of Commerce, where they apparently languished. See *JCC*, 17:541-42; *PCC*, item 71, 1:343-48; and Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:34nn.1 and 4.

³ *JCC*, 17:541-42.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to Benjamin Franklin

Sir

In Committee of Foreign Affairs, 11 July 1780

After the repeated remonstrances you have made to Congress on the Subject of Bills of Exchange, the enclosed Resolution,¹ we are well aware, will need an Apology. We regret that you should have so much Trouble, and be put upon so many Expedients in Matters of this Kind, well knowing how delicate a Point it is to solicit further Advances after so many have already been made. Congress attending to your Letters and representations, have taken this Step with reluctance; but the present Crisis, when not only the Preparations for a vigorous Campaign call for large Expenditures, but the Expectation of a cooperating Force make great additions necessary, has induced them to risque the Sum mentioned. The Bills will not be drawn faster than indispensable Exigencies may require, and it is to be hoped this Mode of Commanding Cash will not be again resorted to.

We are, Sir, with great respect, your very obedt hble Servants,

James Lovell

Wm. Churchill Houston

RC (PHi: Gratz Collection). Written by Lovell and signed by Lovell and Houston.

¹ Houston and Lovell probably enclosed a copy of Congress' May 19 resolution directing that additional bills of exchange be drawn on Benjamin Franklin and John Jay to the sum of \$25,000 each.

This letter is apparently one of the belated "letters of advice" concerning those bills that Congress on May 31 had ordered the committee to send to Franklin and

Jay. *JCC*, 17:438, 475. See also Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams and John Jay, July 12, 1780.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to Benjamin Franklin

Sir

Philadelphia July 11. 1780

We are to communicate to you that Congress entertain a favorable Sense of the attention and Services of Monsr. de Chasseaulx his most Christian Majestys Consul at the Port of Bergen in Norway, in the late affair of the prizes Sent in there by the Squadron commanded by Captain Jones and we beg you will present through the proper channel the acknowledgements to be Made for the polite respect Shown to the interests of the Citizens of these States.¹ We are Sir, Your very humble Servts,

Signed James Lovell

Wm. C. Houston

FC (DNA: PCC, item 79). In a clerical hand.

¹ Three prizes sent into the port of Bergen by Capt. John Paul Jones had been seized there by a court order obtained by the British, but Franklin had learned from the French consul at Bergen "that the prizes remain still in that port, and it is said there is some hope that the order may be reversed." Franklin had related this information to President Huntington in a letter of March 4, 1780, and in a resolution of May 31 Congress endorsed Franklin's efforts to recover Jones' prizes while simultaneously endorsing a committee for foreign affairs' recommendation to thank the French authorities for the assistance provided by their consul. See *JCC*, 17:475-76; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:534.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to Benjamin Franklin and John Jay

Sir,

In Committee of Foreign Affairs, Philada. 11 July 1780

Congress having appointed The Honble Henry Laurens to solicit a Loan of Money in The United Provinces of the Low Countries, in Order to facilitate his Success the enclosed Resolution has been passed.¹ We need say Nothing to explain or urge it, except that it is thought a Mark of Attention and Confidence due to those Powers; that their Interest, if the State of Politicks incline them to exert it, will have a good Effect; and that the Want of Money makes the Loan a very capital Object to the United States. You will, we are assured, give Mr. Laurens every Assistance in your Power and solicit the Countenance of the Court where you reside to forward his Negotiations.

Till Mr. Laurens shall arrive, Mr. Adams is commissioned and

empowered to undertake that Business; and in Case of his Disability, Mr. Dana is in like Manner commissioned and empowered.²

We are, Sir, your very obedt hble Servts.

James Lovell

Wm. Churchill Houston

RC (DNDAR: Americana Collection, 2000 X-19). Written by Houston, and signed by Houston and Lovell. Addressed: "The Honble John Jay." FC (DNA: PCC, item 79). Addressed: "To the honorable Benja Franklin Esqr, the honorable John Jay Esqr."

¹ The "enclosed Resolution" was probably the November 8, 1779, resolve directing the committee to prepare a letter to the American ministers in France and Spain to solicit French and Spanish support for Henry Laurens' mission to Holland. See *JCC*, 15:1250; and James Lovell to John Jay, this date.

² See the second letter of the Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams, this date.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia July 11th 1780

I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 4th Instant this day. You have a just right to tax me with neglect in not writing to you. I have nothing to say in my Justification but will endeavour to do better in future, and at best I am conscious I shall be but a lazy dull correspondent.

General Schylers informations was true I was one of the Committee that the System for the Q Masters department was refered to.¹ And I beleive that Gentleman will do me the justice to say that I was of the opinion the Saliries were in general two low. But as they have since Many of them been by Congress and the whole System undergone so much Choping and Changeing that I wish it may never make a publick appearance.²

You may rest asured you have some friends in Congress at the same time there is a great Clammour against the staff departments (*can it be possible you are deceived in your real friends*). It is no wonder to find you think you have been insulted by the Treasury board it is a general Complaint from almost every persen that hath had occasion to do business with them. I hope soon to se the wings of their haughtiness clipped. Congress have been obliged by the numerous Complaints against them to take up the matter and have it now under Consideration. And I flatter my self if they do nothing more will teach them to make [. . .] of a little more Complacency.

If my Ideas are not eronious, many of the Army matters are conducted in a way that will sooner or later prove predejudal to both

the Army and the publick but I beleive it more proceeds from Ignorance and Contracted principals then from any evil design.

Such are the Ideas of Congress that were you to assert that the late mode of Doing business in the QMG department were such as aught to be continued and prove your assertions by Twenty Carrectors as well established as that Number ever was that are mentioned Holy Writ it avail nothing.

I am dear Sr., your most obedt, Hum Servt. E. Cornell

RC (RPB: Rhode Island Manuscripts).

¹ Cornell and Philip Schuyler were members of the committee to which "the plan for conducting the quartermaster general's department" was referred on June 19. *JCC*, 17:522, 528.

² For evidence of this "Choping and Changeing," which on July 6 focused on fixing the pay of the quartermaster general "at 166 dollars, per month, in addition to his pay as an officer in the line," see *JCC*, 17:589-90. For the plan that was finally adopted on July 15, see Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington, June 17, 1780, note 1.

William Churchill Houston to John Adams

Sir,

Philada. 11 July 1780

The principal military Event which has taken Place for some considerable Time past, is the Fall of Charlestown, the Capital of South Carolina. No very material Circumstances can, as yet, be added to those officially published, and which the several American Prints have given you, and the British still earlier. The Intelligence from the Southward being overland is very tedious in it's Passage; and besides this, after the Capitulation the Enemy interposed every Means by dilatory and frivolous Pretences, by what Candour will, in my Opinion, decide to be a Breach of the Spirit of their Engagements, to delay the Dispatches General Lincoln had stipulated should be sent to Congress.¹ This is in their usual Stile, and we have daily Accounts of Cases in which they pay no Sort of regard to their Promises sacredly pledged in Favour of the Citizens. Rapines, Violences and Abuses of every Kind are committed without Reserve, and with very little discrimination. Their Conduct is of a Piece with what they have held in every similar Instances, uninfluenced by any Principles of Honour, Truth, Humanity or even Policy. In the Hour of Debility and Want of Preparation to oppose them, they have overrun a considerable Part of the State of South Carolina; but as General Gates is collecting a Force to oppose them, and as their Cruelties and Oppressions will probably soon work up the Spirits of the People to Fury and Desperation, they will be expelled from the Country.

It seems to be the Ordination of Providence, and, though the Sufferings are severe, it seems to be the Interest of the Union, that

each State, in it's Turn should be vexed with their Depredations and Barbarities. It operates an amazing Change in the Temper and Sentiments of the People, and fixed them in a rooted and resolute Determination to risque the Extreme of Destruction in Preference before Submission. It is clear and undisputed Experience, that in those States where they have made Progress, and from which they have been driven with Arms, or obliged to relinquish with Shame and Disappointment, the Flame of Liberty and Patriotism burns with more Strength and Brightness, and the Exertions of the People are most deciding and irresistible.

Every Person who has attended to the Course of our Revolution knows the Meaning of what in Words is a Paradox, that our misfortunes are our Safety. The Capture of Charlestown is much to be regretted when we reflect that our Soldiers will be starved and scourged into the Enemy's Service; that the Citizens must suffer Pillagings, Conflagrations and Brutality, but it is obvious to every one that it will promote, under the Favour of Heaven, the general Cause. It has awaked a Spirit superiour to any Thing I have seen since the year 1775 and 6, a Spirit that is fast pervading the whole Community, A Spirit which enlivens and increases every Day.

Cornwallis commands to the Southward with between four and five thousand men; Clinton has brought back to New-York a Number somewhat larger, and at the Date of this they are encamped from Philipse's on the North-river across the Country above King's-bridge. When the News of the Fall of Charlestown arrived, and the Troops were returning from thence, they came out with much Confidence and Triumph into New-Jersey, setting Fire to the Country as they passed. The disaffected strengthened their Expectations of Despondence and Submission among the Militia, and Dissertions from the regular Troops. In every Respect they were more disappointed, than perhaps they have ever been since the Commencement of the war. Scarce a man deserted, or Citizen adhered to them, both regulars and Militia, particularly the latter, fought them with the most desperate internecine Fury. The Vengeance due to their former Baseness and Barbarities cannot be forgotten. *Manet alta mente repostum.*²

Considering the Disaster we have met with on a general Scale, we are not in the least dejected by it. We are more apprehensive of the Effect it will have on your Side of the Water, where such Things strike much more forcibly than here. Hope you will take the necessary Steps to prevent any unnecessary, unfavourable Impressions.

Nothing but a better Supply of Money is wanting to give decisive vigour to the War; and if we cannot get it we are not going to give up a good Cause for want of it, however essential it may be thought.

I am, Sir with great respect, your obedt hble Servant,

Wm Churchill Houston

ENCLOSURE

Deputies at this Time attending Congress.

11 July 1780

New Hampshire	Nathaniel Folsome.
Massachusetts Bay	Samuel Adams, James Lovell, Samuel Holten, Artemas Ward.
Rhode Island &c	Ezekiel Cornell.
Connecticut	Samuel Huntington, Presidt. Roger Sherman, Benjamin Huntington.
New-York	Robert R Livingston, John Morin Scott.
New-Jersey	Abraham Clarke, John Fell, William Ch Houston.
Pennsylvania	John Armstrong, James Searle, Frederick A Muhlenbergh, Timothy Matlack, Jared Ingersoll, junr.
Delaware	Thomas MacKean.
Maryland	John Henry, junr, Thomas [<i>i.e.</i> , <i>John</i>] Hanson.
Virginia	Joseph Jones, James Madison, junr, John Walker.
North Carolina	Whitmill Hill, Wyllie Jones.
South Carolina	Francis Kinloch, Thomas Bee.
Georgia	George Walton, Edward Telfair, William Few, Richard Howley.

Committee at Head Quarters.

Philip Schuyler, New-York

John Mathews, South Carolina

Nathaniel Peabody, New-Hampshire

RC and enclosure (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ See Houston to John Jay, July 10, 1780, note 1.² Virgil *Aeneid* 1.26.

Jared Ingersoll to Charles Pettit

Dr. Sir,

Tuesday 6 o'Clock P.M. [July 11, 1780]

If you have any System in your head about the Staff Department, which may be comprized in a few Words, & which is essentially different from the one proposed by Genl Cornel,¹ I'll thank you to state it to me, on paper, I could also wish to know what Sum would be adequate to Genl. Green's expectations. You may depend upon it, no other use will be made of your Answer but for my own private Information.

I am, Sir, Your very hum. servt.

Jared Ingersoll

RC (PHi: James T. Mitchell Collection). Endorsed by Pettit: "J. Ingersoll 11 July 1780."

1. Ezekiel Cornell, a member of the committee to which "the plan for conducting the quartermaster general's department" had been referred. JCC, 17:528.

James Lovell to John Jay

Dear Sir

July 11. 1780

By a Letter from Messrs. Gardoqui & Sons of May 3d recd. yesterday I have the Pleasure of knowing you were then well. In a Postscript to one of his former of Feb. 24, the P S not dated, he says he hears of you *every Week*.¹ This creates a *Chagrin* as we have none of your Favors later than March 3d.² You are not to suppose, however, that I dare to *complain*. I have read my Bible to better Purpose. I am not entitled to throw the "first stones". But I have as good a title as anybody to paliate my own faults, and to shift them upon others. There is said to be a Comtee. of forgn. Affairs, each member is loaded with a variety of business, two have amiable Wives near Pennsylvania.³ I miss the Gentlemen therefore frequently. Mr. Livingston is now absent but you have herewith a Letter he sent to my Care a few days ago.⁴ The weather is murderous hot and I cannot go up and down to the Offices in search of those authenticated Papers which ought to be regularly forwarded to you and other dignified Officers abroad. You will be pleased therefore to know from me *individually* and by Way of a Resolve of Congress of June 21st certified by me that Mr. Dohrman of Lisbon is appointed an Agent in Portugal. The chief View at this time was that the lives of our poor sailors might not be lost in captivity in that Kingdom. Mr. Dohrman has done an infinitude of kind acts already to such as have been carried into Ports near Lisbon. He is a Gentleman of much Influence through his personal Character his Riches & Relations. I have no doubt you will find Advantage from frequent Correspondence with him. He is not yet furnished with any authentic Account of his ap-

pointment. He ought to have some Commission, perhaps beyond a certified Resolve, and he should have some regular instructions. I will endeavor to get Mr. Houston to join me in a Letter to the Gentleman to cover the Proof of his having been elected on the 21st of June.⁵ It was represented by Mr. Anderson of Virginia who is his Agent, that Mr. Dohrman expected no other recompence than the repayment of his Advances, in the usual Way, and those Emoluments that will be naturally consequential upon his being known the public Agent of these States in Portugal. The Proofs of his Spirit in our Cause are unequivocal and his liberality to our suffering countrymen has abundant Proofs. I did give Mr. Anderson a Copy of the Resolve for his own satisfaction but I told him it would go with Authority through You and that Mr. Dohrman ought not to be deprived of the sole Judgement of making the Appointment more or less a Thing of Notoriety according to the Politicks of the Kingdom of Portugal. Mr. Searle is the Bearer of this Via France and Mr. Laurens will either go for Holland in the same Ship, *the Jay*, or will sail in a few days by another opportunity for Holland. The former Gentleman is on business for the State of Pensylva. and perhaps for some mercantile Companies also. You already know Mr. Laurens is to negotiate a Loan. Indeed an Instruction was given to a Comtee. to bring in a Draught of a Letter to the ministers plenipotentiary of these States at Versailles and Madrid directing them to inform his most christian & Catholic Majesty of the Appointment of Mr. Laurens and to solicit the Aid of their majesties respectively on this Occasion.⁶

I am, Sir, your Friend and very humble Servant,

James Lovell

RC (NNC: Jay Papers). Endorsed: "Ansd 27 Octr."

¹ See William Churchill Houston to William Livingston, July 12, 1780, note 1. The "postscript" to which Lovell refers is not on either of these letters, or on a second February 24, 1780, letter from Gardoqui & Sons which had been read on May 11. JCC, 17:423; and PCC, item 92, fol. 475.

² See Samuel Huntington to Jay, July 12, 1780, note.

³ That is William Churchill Houston and Robert R. Livingston.

⁴ See Livingston to Jay, July 6, 1780.

⁵ See Committee for Foreign Affairs to Arnold Henry Dohrman, this date.

⁶ See Committee for Foreign Affairs to Benjamin Franklin and Jay, this date.

John Walker to Thomas Jefferson

Dear Sir

Philada. July 11th 1780.

Your favor by the new line of Expresses I rec'd,¹ & should have answer'd it thro' the same channel, but the bearer was gone before it came to my hand.

I rejoice to hear of the late proceedings of our Assembly with

respect to the new Scheme of Finance,² the Pennsylv. Line &c; these I think are objects of vast Consequence. I wish the business of our back Lands was settled, that the Confederation might be compleated. Do you not think it would be advisable in Virginia to give up her exclusive Claims beyond the Ohio, to be guaranteed in all her Territory on this side? From the present face of affairs here, I am doubtful whether these are not as good Terms as the Confederation could now be compleated on. The United States making us a Compensation for our extraordinary Expence incurr'd in the defence of that Country. I wished to have consulted you on this business before I came here, but had not the pleasure of seeing you. There is now a Committee of Congress deliberating on this Business & I suppose some steps will shortly be taken in it, but expect they will be merely recommendatory.³ In the mean time should be glad to know your Sentiments on the Subject.

With regard to the late vote, by which I was left out of the next year's Delegation, my Interest could not have been more effectually promoted, tho' certainly it had not the *suaviter in modo*. I now consider myself as fully absolved for the remainder of my life, from all Civil Employments, having been rejected both by my County & Country; possess'd however of the *Mens conscia recti* and the Friendship of such as you, I envie no Man his Lot.

I am glad you kept the map sent me by my Father, it was intended chiefly for the use of your honble. Board.⁴ Part of his Letter too related to the Commonwealth of Virginia. If you did not read it pray inform me, that I may send you such Extracts from it as may deserve your Attention.

Perhaps you or Mrs. Jefferson may have some little Commissions here, if so I claim them as my right. Almost any thing may be had here for money *enough*, a little will get nothing. Goods are generally about 50 Per Ct. above what they used to be in hard money & if paid in paper 60 for one on that. I rejoice to tell you, that in the Eastern States, where the New bills begin to circulate, there is no kind of difference between them & Silver. A Strong argument in fav. of the Resolution of the 18th of March.

Inclosed you have the last paper to which I beg leave to refer you for News.

Offer our respectful Compts. to Mrs Jefferson &c and believe me to be, My Dear Sir, Affectly. yours &c, Jn. Walker

[P.S.] Madison sends the News paper.

RC (DLC: Jefferson Papers).

¹ Not found.

² See Joseph Jones to Jefferson, June 30, 1780, note 2.

³ For Congress' recent consideration of the western land issue, see *ibid.*, note 3.

⁴ The map sent to Walker by his father, Dr. Thomas Walker of Albemarle Co., Va., has not been identified.

John Walker to George Weedon

Dear General:

Philad'a, July 11th, 1780.

Your favour of the 4th instant inclosing the Virginia Gazette I received with great pleasure, and rejoice to find that you so cheerfully lay aside every consideration of domestic tranquillity &c. when your country so loudly calls for your services. May they be crowned with that success they so justly deserve.

The French fleet, we are informed by the Baltimore papers, has arrived at Martozines [Martinique]. I think that by forming a junction with the other French and Spanish forces in that quarter our relentless foes may be more suddenly and vitally wounded than on the continent. Their united fleets in the West Indies will not be far short of fifty sail of the line with about 30,000 troops. With such a force as this, what is to prevent their immediately possessing themselves of all the British isles in those seas? This being done, the continental business will not be difficult. On the other hand, should they come immediately here, we shall be found so shamefully unprepared to co-operate with them, that I fear it will serve only to reflect disgrace on us and render us unworthy of their notice in future. The enemy remain quiet in and about New York. They have been ravaging and laying waste the country between the North River and the Sound. In short all their movements prove that they expect a siege at New York.

By dispatches just received from Europe our affairs in that quarter wear on the general face of them a very favourable aspect; a little more time and perseverance will assuredly confirm our Independence, and unless we are greatly deficient in virtue (which by the bye I fear) will render us a happy and respectable people.

My ammunition and time are both exhausted I shall therefore bid you adieu.

I have not yet got the last paper, but mean to procure and inclose you one.

I am, Dear General, Your Affec't Friend and humble Serv't,

Jn. Walker

MS not found; reprinted from Thomas Balch, ed., *Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution* (Philadelphia: Printed for the Seventy-Six Society, 1857), pp. 112-13.

Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Jay and John Adams

Sir

In Committee of Foreign Affairs, 12 July 1780.

Enclosed you have Description of the Bills of Exchange concerning

which we have written you.¹ The secret Checks accompany it.² They are just furnished us by the Treasury-board, and we are sorry that the Paper is so indifferent, but hope it will answer the Purpose of Information. We are assured the Copy is exact; it is however necessary to observe that unless the Impression of the Bills is very fine and clean, it will be very difficult to discover the whole of the secret Checks perfectly.

We are, Sir, your very hble Servants,

James Lovell

Wm Churchill Houston

RC (MHi: Adams Papers). Written by Houston and signed by Houston and Lovell. FC (DNA: PCC, item 79). Addressed: "To the Honorable John Jay & To the Honorable John Adams."

¹ See Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Jay, June 16, 1780.

² In the November 29, 1779, resolution "relative to the drawing bills of exchange on Mr. Jay and Mr. Laurens," Congress specified "That the bills be prepared under the direction of the Board of Treasury, and with such checks as they may devise to prevent counterfeits." *JCC*, 15:1326. For additional information on the use of such bills, see William G. Anderson, *The Price of Liberty. The Public Debt of the American Revolution* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1983), pp. 10, 87-90.

Nathaniel Folsom to Meshech Weare

Sr. Philadelphia July the 12th. 1780

I this day Recd. your letter of the 19th of June.¹ The money you Request me to apply for to the board of treasury I Sent on by one Captn. John Brown of Boston who left this Place the 29th of June in order to Proseed to Newhampshier which no doubt you will Recive long before you Recive this—and allso a letter of advice by the Post which I Should be glad to Know if it Came Safe to hand.² The money you mention Sent by Coll. Dearbon is not yet arrived but it is likely it may in a few days.

I Presented the bill Drawn by Thomas Thompson in feavor of Captn. Ladd for Exceptence, which they made Some difficulty abought on account of the Scarcity of money, but Excepted it, Payable in a month which I agreed to—if Paid I Shall wait the further order of the Court with Regard to it as I Dont Expect to want it all.

We have no account as yet in this quarter of the arrival of the french fleet tho daily Expected.

We have a Committee at head quarters ever Since abought the 20th of April my Colleague³ being one of them hope you will have the necessary information abought the army.

I am with Esteem & Respect Sr. your most obt. Humle. Servant.

Nathl. Folsom

RC (Nh-Ar: Weare Papers).

¹ The FC of Weare's June 19, 1780, letter to the New Hampshire delegates is in the Weare Papers, MHi.

² See Folsom to Weare, June 29, 1780.

³ That is, Nathaniel Peabody.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir

Philadelphia July 12th. 1780

I wrote you yesterday by the post.¹ I have at length got Bills of Exchange on France for 5000 Dollrs., being our part of 50,000 Dollas, allotted by Congress, to be distributed Amongst the States, Which I have Sent by Mr Mchard. I am Sorry to Acquaint you, that our part of the new Emission will not be Struck untill the week after next, be assured I will have it got ready and Sent forward as soon as possible. The Continental Treasury is quite Exausted, And hope for the Credit of Maryland, you will have it in your power to Send in a Short time, the ballance of our Quota of the money required by the resolve of Congress of the 19th May last.²

Have inclosed you the Pensylvania Gazette and Journal, have nothing more to add at present, only to assure you that I am With the highest Respect, Your Excellencys most Obedient Servt,

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ In his July 11 letter, Hanson had reported his efforts to purchase a coach for Lee and speculated that "the new money" for Maryland might be ready for the press in a few days. Lee, Horsey, Carroll Papers deposit, MdHi.

² In a July 8 letter to the Maryland delegates, the Maryland Council had explained that the \$200,000 sent with Isaac McHard on the state's quota of \$1,234,350 was all that was available at present. *Md. Archives*, 43:215.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir

Philada. 12 July 1780

By a Letter just received from Joseph Gardoqui and Sons at Bilboa, the following Information is given. "We are now under the 3d of May and the Vessel being still detained by contrary Winds, have only to tell you that our worthy Friend, the Honble John Jay, Esquire, and all his Family were well in their own House on the 28 ulto. at Madrid; from whence we just learn that the Fleet of twelve Sail of the Line and twelve Thousand Troops had sailed from Cadiz on the 23 ulto for some Part of America. Another Fleet of eight Sail of the

Line and six Thousand Troops sailed the 15 ulto from Brest, bound, as is conjectured the same Way.”¹

The Part of this Intelligence which relates to the French Fleet seems rather to be Report and Probability than Certainty. The English Papers say they had not sailed the 17th and there are Letters in Town which speak of their leaving Brest at a still later Period.

A Letter of the 8th ulto from Parsons, Alston and Co. at St Pierre, Martinique, has the following Paragraph.² “The present serves to enclose a List of the Spanish Fleet mentioned in our last, as given out by one of the Officers of the Spanish Frigate that arrived at Fort-royal the 2nd inst. Mons De Guichen sails this Day with sixteen or seventeen Ships of the Line, to meet the Fleet and escort them into Port.”

The Fleet mentioned in this Paragraph is the same mentioned by Messrs Gardoqui. The List contains the Names of the Ships, the Amount is as follows: 1st Division, 1 of 80 guns, 4 of 74, 1 of 64. 2nd Division, 1 of 80, 4 of 74, 1 of 60. 3d Division, 3 Frigates of 36 Guns each. 4th Division 1 Sloop of 18 and a Louger of 10. The Fleet is commanded by Don Michael-Joseph Soltani & Don John Thomosa. At the Bottom of the List is this Note: “The above-mentioned Vessels have under their Convoy 130 Transports with 12,000 Troops on Board, said to be under the Command of Don Victorine de Nav[ar]ro, and 10 of those Transports mount from 30 to 44 Guns each.”

We may daily expect to hear of the French Fleet and I take the Liberty to mention to Your Excellency the Necessity of urging the Execution of the Measures which the Legislature have taken for producing the Resources of the State, particularly Men, Money and Provisions.

I am with the highest respect, your Excellency's obedt. Servant,
Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ This May 3 letter to President Huntington and another of February 24, 1780, reporting that “Admiral Rodney is still at Gibraltar,” are in PCC, item 92, fols. 471-74, 479-82. They were read in Congress on July 10, and were acknowledged in a brief letter of the 11th to Joseph Gardoqui & Sons from the committee for foreign affairs, signed by Houston and James Lovell. See *JCC*, 17:595; and PCC, item 79, fol. 266.

² This June 8, 1780, letter from Parsons, Alston & Co. to the Committee for Foreign Affairs is in PCC, item 90, fols. 255-56.

Samuel Huntington to Benjamin Franklin

Sir,

Philadelphia July 12. 1780

I take the Liberty of introducing to your favourable Notice the Honble James Searle Esquire the Bearer.

This Gentleman hath been for some Time past, and now is a Member of Congress for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and comes to Europe charged with Business of Consequence from that State.¹

The Honour that State hath conferred upon him, and the Confidence they have placed in him, render it needless for me to add any Thing in Support of his Character.

Mr Searle will present you with Bills to the Amount of one thousand Pounds Sterling drawn by Order of Congress, in Favour of the President & Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, upon their Minister at the Court of Versailles.²

I lament the Necessity which hath occasioned so many Draughts upon you and hope the Affairs of these United States may soon be regulated in such Manner as to prevent the like Necessity in future.

I presume the Committee of foreign Affairs (to whose Department it belongs) have transmitted you from Time to Time the needful Information, and material Intelligence relating to American Affairs.

The Particulars of the Seige and Capitulation of Charles town you will doubtless receive before this comes to hand.

Your Letters of the 30th of September, 4th of October & 17th of October 1779 and 4th of March 1780 have been received and laid before Congress.³

I have the Honour to be, with every Sentiment of respect and Esteem, Sir, your most obedt hbble servt, Sam. Huntington

RC (PPAmP: Franklin Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Samuel Adams to John Adams, July 10, 1780, note 1. Searle had been granted leave of absence from Congress on July 7. *JCC*, 17:595.

Huntington also wrote the following brief letter of introduction for Searle to John Adams this day.

"The Honorable James Searle Esquire will have the Honor of delivering you this Letter. He is a Gentleman of Character and Reputation in this City, hath been for some Time past, and now is a Member of Congress for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and comes to Europe, charged with Business of Importance by the Government of Pennsylvania.

"I take the Liberty to introduce this Gentleman to your favorable Notice and Attention, as a worthy Character, who hath merited the Esteem and Confidence of this State." Adams Papers, MHi.

² Congress endorsed this Pennsylvania Council request for bills of exchange to be drawn on Franklin on July 6. *JCC*, 17:590.

³ See *JCC*, 16:186, 226-27, 17:428. These letters to the Committee for Foreign Affairs and to the president of Congress are in PCC, item 82, 1:137-40, 149-72, 181-90, 199-210, and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:354, 361-66, 384-85, 534-37.

Samuel Huntington to John Jay

Sir, Philadelphia. July 12. 1780
I have been honoured with your several Letters of the 24th, 25th,

26th & 27th of December 1779, and of the 27th January, 20th & 28th of February, and three of the 3d of March 1780 which were immediately laid before Congress.¹

It was with some Surprize that we first heard from you at Martinique under the Misfortune you had met with but no Part of your Conduct or Transactions which you have communicated, hath met with the least Disapprobation in Congress.

The several Letters addressed to your Friends which came enclosed with the above Despatches I had the Pleasure to forward immediately by safe Conveyances.

You will doubtless, before this comes to Hand have received the disagreeable Intelligence of the Capitulation & Surrender of Charles Town S. Carolina.

I presume the Committee of foreign Affairs (to whose Department it belongs) communicate to you from Time to Time the Proceedings of Congress, and all material Intelligence respecting American Affairs. Would my Engagements permit, it would give me great Pleasure to transmit you by every Opportunity the most particular Intelligence from these Parts but as you are fully acquainted with my Situation, and Want of Leisure, you will expect more frequent and full Intelligence from the Committee of foreign Affairs than from me.

I had the Pleasure of Sir James Jay's Company to dine with me yesterday, from whom I have the Satisfaction to find, that your Friends and Connections in New York State & Jersey are all well. Please to make my Compliments acceptable to your Lady, and beleive me to be with every Sentiment of Esteem & respect, Sir, your most obedt & hbble servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (NNC: Jay Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See JCC, 16:400, 17:435. Copies of these letters, except a third one of March 3, 1780, are in PCC, item 110,1:1-25, 38-39, 48-52, 3:20-21, 24-28, and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:436-49, 474-75, 509-10, 526-27, 529-31. Huntington's reference to one of "28th of February" is probably to the letter dated February 29, 1780, in PCC and Wharton. Although Jay's letter of December 27 (concerning "a Promise I made to Monsr. De Laiske of this Island [Martinique]") is in the PCC, it was not printed by Wharton.

Philip Schuyler to John Lansing, Jr.

Dear Sir

(Secret)

Percanis July 12th 1780

Some Intelligence has been received which renders It exceedingly Important to ascertain the following fact. If Ethan Allen was on the Grants or at any place or places in the vicinity from About the 20th of June last to the 10th Instant, or where he was; this Matter is of such Moment that I must entreat you to devote A portion of time to It.¹

I wish you to Contrive some Excuse to go to Bennington and for Your Stay there a few days that you may have leisure Cautiously to make the necessary Enquiries. If you receive any Information on the Subject note the persons names who give It, their General Character and the particulars. If you find that he has been absent try to Ascertain from and to what time, and If possible which way he went, and pray be very minute in giving me the detail, the most profound Secrecy will be observed here and no names mentioned as this is to be a preliminary enquiry on which another will be founded. If the Information you Communicate shall be Such as to render one necessary—Shew this letter under the Strongest Injunctions of Secrecy to Mr. Jacob Cuyler, who from the business he has had in that part of the Country may give Essential Assistance in this and I therefore wish him to Accompany you to Bennington. Let Your answer to this, after the Enquiry, be sent to me under Cover to General Washington directed on public Service, and by Express.

Pray favor me with a line acknowledging the receipt of this. Adieu, I am Dear Sir, Most affectionately Yours &c &c

Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] Let your letter after the Enquiry contain nothing on any other Subject. Since writing the above It Occurred to me that there was no Gentleman who could afford you more Effectual aid than Mr. Jno. Taylor and I have mentioned to him that you would Shew him this, and Intreated him he give you his assistance.

RC (NHi: Lansing Papers).

¹ Schuyler was investigating a report by an American spy, Abraham Bancker, to General Washington that Ethan Allen had met with Sir Henry Clinton, the British Commander, in New York in early July. Lansing informed Schuyler in his July 26 reply that Allen had made two extended journeys in May and June, but he had been seen on the New Hampshire Grants July 1–8 and at Lake George on July 9–10, where he was seen with New York Governor George Clinton.

Allen and other Vermont leaders had indeed been contacted by Frederick Haldimand, the governor of Canada, in March 1780 with a plan to ally an independent Vermont with British Canada; but there is no evidence that they had as yet responded. See Lansing to Schuyler, July 26, 1780, Schuyler Papers, NN; Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:161–62; and Chilton Williamson, *Vermont in Quandry: 1763–1825* (Montpelier: Vermont Historical Society, 1949), chaps. 7–8.

Committee at Headquarters to Certain States

Sir, In Committee of Congress, Preakness, July 13. 1780.

We do ourselves the honor to inclose your Excellency copy of a letter of this date from the Commander in Chief.¹ You, Sir, are so fully impressed with the necessity of improving every moment to promote the great object of the present campaign, it will be needless

to aduce any arguments in support of the sentiments contained in the generals letter. Permit us only to observe, that in proportion as any state is deficient in the number of men, and quantum of supplies for the Army, Our prospect of success will be diminished, and should unhappily your state rely—that the exertions of other states will be competent to the business, and the same opinion be entertained by others, It is evident that disgrace and ruin must be the portion of this Country. Persuaded that your feelings will revolt at the mere Idea; we rely with confidence that not a moments time will be lost, in fulfilling the engagements of your state, and in a perfect compliance with the requisitions of this Committee as specified in former applications for any extra supplies, or services.

Your Excellency will not conclude us too importunate in the repeated reiterations on this important subject, as we are convinced that the occasion will justify us in this address. (Thus far Circular)—To the State of New Hampshire.

The Committee are so unhappy as not to have been favoured with the determination of your state upon their various applications, nor have we had the least assurances of what is to be expected from them, or even the receipt of their applications acknowledged.²

We have the honor to be, with the greatest respect & Esteem, Your Excellencys Most Obedt. Humble Servt., Php. Schuyler

Nathl. Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Addressed: "Circular, To the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland."

¹ For Washington's July 13 letter concerning the imminent arrival of the French fleet and lack of preparation in the states, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:165-66.

² See also the committee's letter of this date to Joseph Reed, president of Pennsylvania.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress, Preakness,
Sir State of New Jersey, July 13. 1780

We have the honor to transmit your Excellency Copy of a letter of this date from the Commander in Chief to us, with Copies of ours to all the states north of Virginia.¹ A letter we have just been favoured with from Governor Jefferson, and which affords us great satisfaction, supercedes the necessity of addressing him on the present occasion.²

The states have been Individually called upon for such portions of the supplies, they were required to furnish by the act of Congress of the 25th Feby. as there situation with respect to the point against which it is in Contemplation to direct the military operations of the Campaign, and their then, and present abilities, indicated to be not only proper but necessary and indispensable. The same principle prevailed in making the requisitions for Extra supplies; and the aggregate of the whole was estimated to be barely sufficient effectually to obtain the object in view, a retrospect to the return of what was required from each state, and which was inclosed in the letter we had the honor to address Congress on the 2d of June last will evince, that if the state of Pennsylvania either will not (which we do not suppose) or is not in a condition to comply with the requisition, A Co-operation with the force of our Ally, against any capital object, will be clearly impossible, unless other states can make good the deficiency of that, but until the Committee is advised, that Pennsylvania refuses to comply or is incapable of furnishing the supplies allotted to it, In the whole or in part, We cannot enter upon a new apportionment of such deficiency to the other states.

We assure you sir, that altho we have the most Indubitable testimony that Governor Reed has received at least some of our letters, yet the state has not even deigned to acknowledge the receipt of any one. The Consequences that may result to the public from this Inattention on the part of that state, will so readily, & so fully occur to Congress, that we conceive it needless to elucidate the subject by any farther observations on it.

It is incumbent on us to advise Congress unless the state in question becomes sensible of the attention which is due to a Committee of Congress and conveys the necessary communications to us on the subject of our important Mission, that we shall decline addressing them in future. Persuaded that we should be culpable in suffering the dignity of the great Council of the United states to be wounded thro us by submitting to insult from any.

We have the honor to be, With great Respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedt. Humble servants,

Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Peabody and Schuyler. Endorsed: "Letter from Comee at headquarters July 13, 1780. Read July 17. With A. B. C. A. Gen Washington's letter July 13. B. Circular letter to states July 13. C. Letter to Prest. Reed July 13."

¹ See the preceding entry.

² For Jefferson's July 2 letter concerning steps being taken in Virginia to provide "supplies of men and provisions to the grand army," see Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd); 3:476-77.

Committee at Headquarters to Joseph Reed

In Committee of Congress. Preakness,
State of New Jersey, July 13. 1780

Sir

We should stand fully Justified to our Constituents & to the world, if we declined any further communications to the state of Pennsylvania, on the subject of our mission; as it has not even acknowledged the receipt of any of the letters we have addressed it, altho the importance of this Committees being advised of what the state would, or could do, is so evident. But incapable of sacrificing the interest of our Country to our own feelings we once more address you.

The inclosed copy of a Letter from the Commander in Chief¹ contains observations so important to the weal of the United states, that we hope they will be seriously considered by yours. We will only observe that in proportion as any State is deficient in the number of men, and quantum of supplies, or aids in transportation, our prospect of success will be diminished, and should unhappily your State, on whose exertions so much depends, rely that those of others will be competent to the business, and should it be a fact, as we are persuaded it is, that other states are for the *present at least* incapable of larger aids, than those required of them; It is evident that neglect on your part must produce disgrace and ruin to this Country, we hope however, that the feelings of your state will revolt at the Idea, and that impressed, as it ought to be with the magnitude and importance of the common object of the United states, It will be impelled to a perfect and immediate compliance with the former requisitions of this Committee; and afford us the most explicit assurance on the subject.²

We have the honor to be, with due respect, Your Excellency's Most
Obt. Hble servts,

Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 69). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Peabody and Schuyler.

¹ See Committee at Headquarters to Certain States, this date, note 1.

² Apparently out of general frustration over the tardiness of the states in mobilizing men and provisions, Schuyler and Peabody directed this stinging and intemperate rebuke at the Pennsylvania government, which had failed to acknowledge the receipt of any of its appeals. In a detailed letter to Congress of July 17 the Pennsylvania Council expressed its outrage over this "unmerited reproach," and especially the committee's "insinuation that any publick misfortune or disgrace would be justly ascribed to us." President Reed explained that the council was still gathering information on the supplies available and that he had recently assured Schuyler, when they met in Philadelphia the third week in June, "that nothing would be omitted, to forward the supplies." Reed further enclosed an unspecified number of "Letters of a single Month only on the Subject of Supplies" to show that "no argument or Motive has been left unessayed by us, to answer the views and expectations of Congress at this important crisis." In the meantime the council would "leave it to the Wisdom of

Congress to express their Opinion to the Committee in such manner, as they think most conducive to the publick good." See PCC, item 69, 2:189-200; and *Pa. Archives*, 8:419-22.

The council's letter was read in Congress on July 19 and referred to a committee of five chaired by Samuel Adams who delivered its report on the 26th. Upon examining "the papers and letters referred to them," the committee found that "the government of the State of Pennsylvania in this critical conjuncture of our public affairs has manifested her usual zeal and activity, and that the letter from the Committee at Camp of the 13th day of July contains sentiments improper to be addressed to the supreme executive authority of any of the United States." *JCC*, 17:642, 669. It is not clear whether this reprimand was ever sent to the committee, but it is obvious that the committee had begun to lose support in Congress. For a further criticism of the committee's performance, see the committee's letter to Samuel Huntington, July 18, note 14.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir

Philadelphia July 13th. 1780

I do my self the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that I am informd, the general Assembly, have ordered that the state shall be represented, by only one Deligate in Congress, I am bound to confide in their Wisdom.¹ At the same time, I think its a greater trust, then ever fell to my lot before. The State of Georgia, now in the Enemys possession; have at this time, four members present; their expences, which are not the smallest, paid by draughts; on the Continental Treasury, for which their state, is to be accountable *when recovered from the Enemy*.

A letter was this day read in Congress; from Genl Washington; seting forth the great want, of Marques, & Tents, Also another from the Q M.G, stateing the last, of the Number wanted, at the same time representing that it was out of his power to procure them, for want of Money.² Genl Washington, expressed an earnest desire, if Congress could not, furnish the money; that they would recommend, to the Merchants, of the four N. England states, to furnish them, in the same manner, that the Merchants of this City, furnish provision, and Rum, for the Army. The letter is refered to a Committee, of all the N England delegates. They have not made any report. But am ready to beleive they will report, in favour of the plan proposed by the General,³ for it is out of the power of Congress, to furnish them, with out the immedite assistance, of the States or individuals. Should Congress adopt a plan that should appear Generous, I flatter my self, the Merchant, in New England, will be as ready to lend a helping hand, as those in Philadelphia. And those in Rhode Island according to their abilitys, among the foremost, you may expect to hear from me again, soon on this subject.

I beg your Excellency will excuse me, I cannot help entreating in the most earnest manner, that you will communicate to me, as often

as convenient, all publick transaction of the state. I am repeatedly called on by Congress, and the members, to know what the little state of Rhode Island is doing, in this time of distress. I have only been able to say, that if they would judge, from her former Conduct, they had nothing to fear from that Quarter. Untill within a few day when I had the good luck, to receive the Gazette, Containing the Laws, for Emitting £20,000, and for raising Six hundred and od[d] men, for filling up our Continental Battallions the whole was highly satisfactory to Congress. They are anxious to hear the state hath fully Complied with the resolutions of the 18th of March last, especially the Delegates from the N. England states.

I have the honour to be, your Excellency most obedt. Humble
Servant,
Ezek Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ It is not known how or when Cornell had been notified that he would be Rhode Island's sole representative at Congress, but in fact the state had been represented by only one delegate for some time. Rhode Island had long stipulated that its vote could be cast by a single delegate "in Case of the Sickness, or necessary Absence" of its other representatives, which had been the case since May 10 when John Collins had returned home and left William Ellery alone in Philadelphia. He had been replaced in turn by Cornell on June 5.

The cost of maintaining a delegation in Congress weighed heavily in Rhode Island's decision to notify Cornell that he would be the state's only delegate until relieved, which the assembly ordered in October 1780 by naming James M. Varnum to replace him, but the practice was ended the following year when the assembly divided the four delegates appointed to Congress into pairs who were directed to attend alternately for six-month terms. See *JCC*, 17:485; and Bartlett, *Records of R.I.*, 8:396, 537-38, 9:36, 259-60, 428. After the Articles of Confederation were implemented in March 1781 each state was required to be represented by no fewer than two delegates.

² For Washington's letter, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, July 15, 1780, note 2. Gen. Nathanael Greene's July 8 letter to Washington, which was enclosed in it, is in the Washington Papers, DLC, but its receipt was not mentioned in the journals and no copy of it is in PCC.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Certain States, July 21, 1780.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir

Philadelphia July 14th 1780

Our part of the new money Cant be printed untill the date of the Maryland Law Complying with the requisition of Congress of the 18 March, is made Known to the Board of Treasury. You will therefore be pleased to give them that Information by the next post. The Secretary of that Board Acquaints me, that he has wrote to you by this post desiring the Law might immediately be sent but nothing more is wanting at present but the date. The new England and Jersey States have got their proportion of the money, the press is now employed for the State of New York, and Maryland is next in turn.

It is reported and I believe with good foundation that the Enemy have landed at Philipsburgh About 12 or 15 miles above Kings Bridge, they have burnt some Houses, are Collecting Forage and it is expected are retiring again to New York.

I have the Honor to be with great regard, Yr Excellency most Obedient Servt,
John Hanson

[P.S.] I am sorry to Acquaint that Mr. Henry has been Ill for some days but is now getting better.

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

William Churchill Houston to Moore Furman

Dear Sir

Philada. 14 July 1780

On my Arrival at Congress I immediately applied to the Committee appointed to confer with the Inspectours of the Bank in this City, and explained to them as my own Ideas the Subject on which *we conversed*, mentioning also that you were apprehensive of Inconveniences. The Paper I delivered to Mr. Livingston, one of the Committee, who promised to confer with the Inspectours.¹ He has since been at Trenton and says he has called upon Mr. Meredith who explains the Matter to him so as to make it appear that by loading the Waggon deeper and giving them less Time to go the Trip, they transort cheaper than the publick Officers in the Quarter Master General's Department.² I am glad you have signified the Prospects of Difficulty to the Board of War, as they have, I understand, a constant intercourse with the Inspectours. I am so exceedingly engaged in the Business of Congress, that I have little or no Opportunity to attend to any Thing out of Doors, but hope the Board of War and Committee will not fail to make every necessary representation to the Inspectours, that as little Interference as possible may be made in the publick Movements. I expect to be at Trenton early next Week.

I am Sir your very obedt hble Servant,

Wm Churchill Houston

RC (PPIn).

¹ The "Paper" Houston delivered to Robert R. Livingston has not been identified. Livingston had been appointed on July 3 to a vacancy on the committee to confer with the inspectors and directors of the proposed Philadelphia bank. *JCC*, 17:585.

² The cost differential in hiring teams was a major concern of Furman in his position of deputy quartermaster general. He had informed Quartermaster General Nathanael Greene in a July 2 letter that because horse teams and drivers could be paid more by civilians, it would "not be in my power to do the Business in future to Satisfaction." PCC, item 39, 1:100-107. He was also about to be overwhelmed by the shortage of forage, which he explained in a letter to Charles Pettit that was forwarded to Congress and taken up on July 19. For the responses of Congress and the Committee at Head-

quarters to these problems, see the letters to Furman from Samuel Huntington, July 25, and from the Committee at Headquarters, July 30, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia July 14. 1780

In Pursuance of the Act of Congress of the 13th Instant herewith enclosed, your Excellence will please to obtain the Exchange of Brigadier General du Portail as soon as practicable.¹

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of Respect and Esteem, your Excellency's most obedt servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For this resolve, which was adopted unanimously after the yeas and nays were called for by Jared Ingersoll, see *JCC*, 17:609-10. Although Washington was pessimistic that the proposal would be acceded to by the British, Duportail's exchange was effected in November 1780. See Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:234, 249-50, 20:69, 243, 268-69, 315, 323.

Duportail, chief of Continental engineers, had been ordered to assist Gen. Benjamin Lincoln in the defense of Charleston in March, but arrived too late to plan an effective defense and was taken by the British when the city capitulated. His May 17, 1780, report to Congress on his conduct at Charleston is in PCC, item 164, fols. 350-53.

Samuel Huntington to Oliver Wolcott

Sir Philadelphia July 14th. 1780

I have been favoured, with your Several letters of the 22d of April & 1rst instant, I thought the former had been answerd until the latter convinced me that in the multiplicity of business it escaped my memory, I have no excuse to plead for the omission but want of leisure & beg you to be assured it was not want of inclination.

I have been long of Opinion that the Subject of our finances is of the greatest Importance, that a fixed & Stable medium must be established & am perswaded had all the States adopted the resolves of the 18th of March with the Same dispatch & decision as Connecticut did, we Should by this time have been in a great measure Insensibly releived from our most pressing difficulties. I have now receivd *official* Information from all the States, as far South as Maryland inclusive (except Rhode Island & Delaware) that they have adopted those Resolves; hope soon to receive the like information from Virginia & North Carolina; from South Carolina & Georgia in their present unhappy circumstances nothing of that nature can be expected.

I am happy to be informed that Connecticut are in so fair a way to furnish their Quota of Troops & cannot but hope a Spirit of

necessary exertion is increasing in general. It is with pleasure I can assure you there is greater appearance of it in this State than I have seen for Some years, & believe Should the Armament arive which is now daily expected from France we Shall See vigorous exertions.

General Gates is ordered to take the Command in the Southern department, & I most devoutely wish his former good Fortune may Still attend him.

I am Sorry to find so much difficulty in Sending letters direct to Litchfield. Safe oppertunities come to my knowledge not so frequent as were desirable it being out of the post road, were it in the line of the post I should Trouble you with my correspondence much oftener; & I hope be less forgetfull of yours.

I am Sir with every Sentiment of Respect & Esteem, your humble
 Servant, Sam. Huntington

RC (CtHi: Wolcott Papers).

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

Madam

July 14th. 1780

Your *favour* of June 13th¹ reached me this Morning. I will endeavour to write intelligibly in answer; but, alas! I have already fallen into my old track, and must give a note of explanation before I proceed further. N.B. The above underscoring means that I love flattery and a flatterer; nay, more, tho it may seem contradictory to the first part of my nota bene, it means that I love Saucyness and a Saucy-box. I think that I have done away all the "enigmatical" part of the word as it respected one particular epistle, and was not written in that honest sense in which I generally make use of it to mark whatever comes to me from the pen of Portia.

I will endeavour to accomplish speedily what you wish in regard to the Balance of long standing in favour of Mr. A.

You will find from the inclosed Gazette the Substance of 3 of Mr. A's Letters recd. the 10th of this month.² There was another very long one of Apr. 3d but it contained only what had been before published here respecting the Affairs of the United Provinces of the Netherlands. As to what I promised about his former Letters, you afterwards appeared to have had the substance of them so far as related to his travails; and I judged you also got by the Marquis a Knowledge of Mr. A's Situation in France. I will, notwithstanding, catch the Leisure to see whether I can send you any Novelty from them. *(Your mention of one of my Letters without date, and at the same time reminding me of such a promise in a late Letter confounds me because I find yours of May 24th endorsed "recd. June 12—answered 13th.")*³ Mr.

A's Letters were read 15 of May.)⁴ I have had a good Opportunity of sending to Mr. A. this morning by Mr. Searle a Member of Congress for Pensylvania and shall in a few days have another by Mr. Laurens, late President. I have forwarded a Commission to him to execute what was entrusted to Mr. L. as to a Loan in Holland—and another Commission which he is to deliver to Mr. D[ana] for the same Purpose in case of his own Inability upon any Score.⁵ The Business was too critical to risque upon Mr. L's safe Passage. The Commissions are only provisory till he or another arrives. Mr. A's Embassy was considered as too important to be absolutely broken in upon by a decisive order from hence. He signified to me his Readiness to undertake any Thing of public Utility to fill up those Hours of Leisure which british Backwardness towards a Treaty of Pacification might give him.

I think I sent you on the 13th the Orders to Doctr. F[ranklin] to pay Mr. A. and D. their Salaries.

I am called off. I care not what Comments you make upon my general Style and manner if you will only own to me that you do not think me enigmatical when I profess myself Madam, Affectionately your Friend and Servt.,
JL

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ Lovell was undoubtedly referring to Abigail Adams' June 11 letter to him, which is in Adams, *Family Correspondence* (Butterfield) 3:352-64.

² Lovell probably enclosed a copy of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of July 12, which contained extracts from John Adams' letters of April 4, 1780.

³ See Lovell to Abigail Adams, June 13, 1780.

⁴ See JCC, 17:428; and Samuel Holten's Diary, May 15, 1780, note.

⁵ See the second letter of the Committee for Foreign Affairs to John Adams of July 11, 1780.

John Armstrong, Sr., to Horatio Gates

Dear General

Philada. 15th July, 1780

My late indisposition (of which I am now better) has prevented an earlier acknowledgement of your favours dated at Travellers Rest. This City for near ten days past has been so warm that persons of a relaxed habit bore the heat with great difficulty. It is now somewhat abated & the air has more energy.

By some late intelligence from New York (amongst wch we are told the British are making a Strong Fort on Long Island opposite the Town) and also by a prize brigg this day brought up our River, we can not doubt but that the French Fleet is now on some part of our Coasts, but before I send off this letter the event will probably be better ascertained.

Of late the general part of business before Congress is only of the Executive kind—two or three Resolutions in the legislative Stile I

shall briefly touch. The manner of paying off the Principal & Interest of our borrowed money, and fixing the Era of depreciation to the 1st of Sepr. —77, and the progressive depreciation from thence to the 18th of March —80, with Tables shewing the different Sums to be received by the Creditors according to the time of lending.¹ This Resolution I hope will give general Satisfaction, not being framed on the Skeleton of naked justice, which indeed could not be ascertained, but in the line of justice Self evident & illustrious, or if you please, on the Scale of liberal policy. The Qr.Master department has undergone a revisal, and a temporary System is framed, somewhat different from the former which will be Sent you, and in which Commissions are laid aside & a Sallary adopted.²

18th—We cannot doubt but that Adl. Graves is arrived at New York & the French Fleet at Newport nearly at the Same time, and expect the particulars this day.³

RC (NH: Gates Papers).

¹ For these fiscal provisions adopted on June 28, see Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, June 27, 1780, note 1.

² The “revisal” of the quartermaster department was resolved upon this day. *JCC*, 17:615-35. For the submission of this “System” by the committee at headquarters and Congress’ reception of the plan, see Philip Schuyler to Samuel Huntington, June 17, 1780, note 1.

³ For the continuation of this letter, see Armstrong to Gates, July 21, 1780.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadelphia July 15th 1780

Yesterday Arrived in Town A Capt. of a Vessel who had been Captured and Carried into New York and Exchanged. He left that place Wednesday. He says that the fryday before an English frigate Arrived at New York, who had been Chaced by a french fleet and was so Closely pursued, that All her Guns, Boats, Spars &c had been thrown overboard. This morning Arrived here a prize Brig taken by two Virginia Boats. The Commander informs that he fell in with a french fleet in the Latitude of Bermuda Steering N west When he left them, from these Coroborating Accounts it is probably that that fleet is Arrived Somewhere to the Eastward before this time. Rhode Island is the place where it is expected they will first touch at. The french Commissary at that place has been for Some time preparing for the reception of the Sick.

I am with the highest regard Dear sir, your Excellencys most Obedient Servt,

John Hanson

[P.S.] The Board of War have not received any Instructions from the Governor and Council respecting the Brass field peices.¹

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ The Maryland Assembly had requested four brass field pieces, two 4-pounders and two 12-pounders, in a June 12 resolve that was received by Congress on June 19. See *JCC*, 17:526-27; and *PCC*, item 70, fols. 373-77.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia July 15. 1780

At seven P.M. this Day I am honord with your Excellency's Favour of yesterday announcing the Arrival of the French Fleet at New Port, believe that Congress will press every Measure in their Power to put the Army in a Condition to begin the intended Co-operations with Vigour and Efficacy.¹

Your Letter proposing a Plan to obtain Supplies of Tents &c from the Merchants to the eastward &c hath been duly received and laid before Congress.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest regard, your Excellency's most obedt & hbble servt, Sam Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Washington's July 14 letter to Congress is in *PCC*, item 152, 9:5-8, and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:171-72. July 15 was a Saturday; Huntington presented the letter to Congress the following Monday morning. *JCC*, 17:636. This news was also reported by Nathaniel Peabody, which was noted in the diary of Samuel Holten, this date: "I recd. a letter from Mr. Peabody mentiong. the arr. of the F. Fleet at R. I." MDaAr.

² This letter, dated July 10, had been referred jointly to the New England delegates and to "the committee appointed to confer with the inspectors and directors of the proposed bank [of Philadelphia]." See *JCC*, 17:609; *PCC*, item 152, 8:641-44; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:150-51. For the disposition of Washington's proposal for procuring tents, see Huntington to Certain States, July 21, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene

Sir, In Committee of Congress, Precaness July 16. 1780.

Your letter of the 14th Instant with the several papers inclosed was delivered us this morning.¹

We observe in your letter of the 19th ultimo to Congress that you have stated the degree of responsibility which you think ought to be required of you on the expenditures of monies in the quarter master general's department, and that you have requested the sense of Congress on that subject; As you have not obtained their determination, As the system for conducting your department, reported by this Committee has not, to our knowledge, been decided upon; As the

Commander in Chief, impelled by necessity, has directed you to arrange it, in some effectual manner to give dispatch and efficacy to your measures equal to the present exigency; And as you decline making the necessary appointments until this Committee afford you their opinion on the degree of responsibility by which you ought to be held, as quarter master general, in the Expenditure of public money, They conceive it incumbent on them, in order to prevent the evils which may arise to the public from a dissolution of the department, before the sense of Congress can be obtained, to give you their opinion on the subject.

We have maturely considered the reasons which you assign in your letter to Congress in support of your proposition, and we assure you they appear so cogent to us, that we do not hesitate to declare our sentiments Generally Coincident with those you have stated in the third paragraph of the letter to which we have alluded.

With respect to the resolution of the Treasury board of the 23d March last, requiring Estimates approved of by the board of war to accompany every application for money, to prosecute the business of the department, we must suppose to have originated from a want of the necessary information, or it would have occurred that a strict adherence to the order in your department under our Circumstances, must of necessity, in some cases involve the Army in great difficulties, and in others prove absolutely ruinous. It would be easy to state a variety of instances, which, from the nature of things, must occur in every campaign in support of this opinion, but we decline giving them, as it would, we Conceive, be like demonstrating a self evident proposition.

In Justice to you, Sir, we embrace this occasion to declare that after having examined your arrangement of the quarter master general's department we are convinced the measures you have adopted, and the principles on which these measures were founded, were well calculated to promote the service, whilst they fully evinced your attention to the public interest; How far your arrangements have been complied with, by your subordinate officers; whether these have appointed more assistants than what were absolutely necessary properly to conduct the business, whether they have adopted the most prudent measures in the purchases, and expended the public property with a proper degree of æconomy, are questions we are not in a situation to determine, nor does it appear necessary we should on this occasion. We have the Honor to be, with great respect and esteem, Sir, Your most obedient servants,

Philip Schuyler,

Nathl. Peabody.

Tr (DNA: PCC item 11).

¹ For Greene's letter of July 14 enclosing Washington's letter to him of the same day, see PCC, item 155, 1:327-30; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:170-71.

Washington had requested that Greene gather sufficient transportation at New London, Conn., "to receive the arms, Cloaths and ammunition which is expected there by the French fleet" and "to take measures to have them forwarded to the army with all possible expedition." Greene, however, used this opportunity to air before the committee his differences with Congress and the Treasury Board over the appointment of persons to his staff and the purchase of supplies not provided by the states. Since the Treasury Board had recently decided "to hold me responsible for persons of my appointing in a very different manner from which I ever conceived myself bound," he had outlined "the degree of responsibility incumbent upon me" in a June 19 letter to Congress requesting clarification, a copy of which he enclosed. He would make such appointments in the meantime only if the committee "agree with me in sentiment upon this subject, and will signify the same." Greene also complained of his inability to carry out Washington's order "to provide such further supplies as the states are not requested to furnish" given the Treasury Board's standing order "requiring Estimates to be laid before them." It was impossible "to conform to their order," he observed, "without a fore-knowledge of future events." The committee forwarded Greene's letter with its enclosures to Congress, for which see Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, July 18, 1780, note 1. See also the committee's letter to Greene, July 21. For Congress' rejection of Greene's June 19 claims, see Huntington to Greene, July 26, note 2.

Philip Schuyler to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Dear Sir,

Camp Precaniss July 16, 1780

About a fortnight ago I was favored with a Letter from you without date. I was much Indisposed when It came to hand and have Continued so until two days ago, this has prevented me not only from answering Your Letter from the additional pleasure I should have had in compl[ying] with Mr Webbs wish or rather In Striving to get It Complied with.¹ I assign tomorrow for that business and hope the business will be settled to my satisfaction which will Include his & Yours.

Divines Observe that In a State of Beatitude we shall reflect with pleasure on the distresses we may have experienced in this life. I believe the position, for I Experience something very like It, with all this Clod of Clay about me, I exult in the reflection that neither Calumny or the variety of Injury I have sustained has ever either In thought or deed Induced me for a single moment to swerve from my duty and as I am too much a man of pleasure to marr It by harbouring resentment, I have long since divested myself of that disagreeable Companion and can with strict truth declare that I entertain none even against those who from a depravity of heart have attempted to Injure me. If such have not yet learnt to forgive the man they have Injured, which they seldom do, so much the worse for them. I am persuaded you will forgive me this Egotism because you are Influenced by similar principles of which you have given a generous evidence, In the present as In past exigencies to which your Country has been Exposed.

I Observe with the most sensible satisfaction that the States in general are roused, that they become Convinced of their danger, and are pursuing measures to avert the Evils which threatned to Involve us In one Common ruin. You remark with great propriety that the times call for Great Exertion and that our affairs demand a bold resolute use of power, and that Congress must have new and Extensive powers. Indeed, Indeed It is necessary they should. It Involves an absurdity that the propriety of the recommendations of the directing powers of the Empire should be Complied with or not as It may be thought Expedient by the States. I contemplate with anxious Concern that If ever the Enemy should be reduced a few Years will bring on Civil Contests which will deluge this Country In blood; some thing should be done to avert It. I wish a Convention from the States could be assembled at an early day to form a Constitution for Congress and agree upon the principles of a Confederation. If this were done, perhaps It would tend to preserve unanimity for ages and promote the weal of the Empire. If It should be Insisted on that by an early day, the States who claim an Extent to the South seas or whose western limits are Indefinite Should all be restricted by a Certain western Extent not too far from the sea, that the Territory beyond such line of restriction should become the property of the United States, that it should be laid off[f] into States but not organized until Inhabited by a Determined number of people, that In the meantime the Inhabitants should be subject for every purpose of Government to the States within whose north and south bounds Continued they might fall—That an Immediate Settlement of the disputed boundary between any States Should be determined by a given day and the mode prescribed by the Convention—That the governing power should be Invested with the Sole right of making peace & war and all Commercial regulations with foreign powers—that appeals should lay to the Sovereign power on all decissions in the Courts of any State on Controversys with the Subjects of any foreign powers, that the requisitions of Congress should be complied with by Every State without Debates on the propriety or Impropriety of the demand leaving to the States, the mode of furnishing what might be demanded, except for soldiers which should be engaged upon one General plan, to prevent any one state from bidding against another, That where a State conceives Itself Injured by an over charge, It shall be at Liberty after having Complied, to represent the Grievance, that If proper an abatement may be made on a subsequent requisition—That the governing power Should appoint officials for the Army—And that one General principal should be Established within one Year after the Conclusion of this war for apportioning to the States their quotas of men & money &c.

If some thing like this was done, I should hope that our Successors for ages to come would Enjoy as much happiness as It is permitted

to Mortals to Enjoy. I should beg you a thousand pardons for all this Impertinence but I rely on your friendship which will Impute to my Anxiety for the happiness of Posterity. I am my Dear Sir & Believe me unfeignedly Your affectionate friend & very Humble Servant,
Ph Schuyler

RC (CtHWa: James Wadsworth Collection).

¹ In a June 14 letter to the Committee at Headquarters, Joseph Webb, an agent for the quartermaster department, alluded to proposals he had made while in Morristown about provisioning the army in New York and Connecticut. He then referred the committee to Wadsworth for "further particulars." See PCC, item 78, 24:211-12.

William Churchill Houston to Joseph Ward

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 17 July 1780

On the 18th ult I received yours of the 5th and this Day yours of the 29th for both which please to accept my Thanks. We have a Dawning of the Arrival of the French Fleet at Rhode-Island, said to have happened on the 10th inst. and we believe the Intelligence. The Occasion is great and solemn, and every Exertion will now be necessary to press the Preparations. Every Person of whatever rank or Abilities may now find full Employment. I think it to be regretted we are in no better Forwardness to enter fully and effectively into the Cooperation. The Spirits of the People are however up in this Quarter, and that being the Case I am well aware that such is the Case with you for you are never behind, almost always before us.

I am just on the Point of setting out for New Jersey, and expect to be some Time absent from Congress.¹ Have paid due Attention to your generous Willingness to be again in active Service, and have had a Conversation with Mr. Adams. Hope an Occasion will offer, and as far as I may have any Voice or Influence will ever wish to put Opportunities into the Power of such as are deserving and disposed to render Service to their Country.

We have no Intilligence from the Southward very lately, but believe the Enemy's Career is checked there, and hope a proper Countenance will be held up against them in that Quarter till Things are in a Situation to give them a Push.

In great Haste, I am with much Respect, your obedt hble
Servant, Wm Churchill Houston

RC (ICHi: Ward Papers).

¹ Despite Houston's expectations that he would be "some Time absent from Congress," he had returned by August 9, when he was recorded as voting. JCC, 17:713.

Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare

Dear Sir,

Camp Preakness. July 17th. 1780.

Circumvolved with every Embarrassment incident to Carrying on a War without An Army, magazines, or Treasury, one fourth part equal to the exigency of the Times, The Greatest discontent in the Small Army Now in the field for want of pay, and Clothing, Neither of which Seem near at hand, I have Scarce time to address a Single friend, or even to advise my own family, of my Situation. Thus Circumstanced I am Necessitated to remain in Camp Contrary to my wish, & vastly injurious to my private interest—with little prospect, of rendering essential Services—And less of giving Satisfaction to the various orders, degrees, & societies of men, necessarily Composed of Individuals, widely differing in their Customs, manners, interests, views and attachments, whom the Committee by their Missions are Necessitated to Transact very important Business with & for.

The French fleet is now arrived, and some few recruits are daily Joining our Army. The plan of Operation for this Campaign agreed upon, in full Confidence that the States will rigidly Comply with the requisitions made on them. Tho we have not been favoured with a Single line from Your State, Not so much as even to acknowledge the Recet. of any one of our letters, Yet from the Zeal, & exertions the State have heretofore uniformly discovered upon less important Occasions, both the Commander in Chief, and the Committee¹ have little room left to doubt your unremitting efforts in the present instance.

Most of the other states have given us very explicit assurances that Nothing Shall be wanting on their part to Compleat the Great object in view. Massachusetts have Singular merit, and You would be Surprised at the instantaneous exertions of some other States. It is in Contemplation for one of the Committee to *visit* the Assembly of the Eastern States upon matters of interesting importance, probably it will be my Tour, and it would be a happy Circumstance in my favour, if the expectations of the Public, and the Trust reposed in me should not render it indispensable immediately to return.

I most Sensibly feel for the Convulsion, and distress my fellow Citizens must feel in that State, must experience by endeavouring to Comply with the requisitions of Congress, and their Committee but be assured that every attention was paid to their ability & Convenience, which the nature & demands of the Service could possibly admit. It is unhappy for me, and disadvantageous to the State that I am totally uninform'd of their municipal affairs, and Transactions, an intimate knowlege of which would often put it in my power to render them essential Service, and at the same time promote the public interest.

Please to make my Complements agreeable to My friends and acquaintance with You.

I have the Honr. to be Sir, with the most entire Consideration of respect & Esteem Your most obedt & very Huml Servt.

Nathl Peabody

P.S. Excuse, not expose this hasty Scrawl

RC (MHi: Large Miscellaneous Collection).

¹ That is, the Committee at Headquarters, of which Peabody was a member. For the committee's receipt of letters from Weare a few days later, see the committee's second letter to Samuel Huntington of July 21, 1780, note.

Committee at Headquarters to John Jacob Faesch

In Committee of Congress,
Preakness, July 18th. 1780

Sir,¹

General Knox having put into our hands a set of proposals made by you, for furnishing the United States with about two hundred tons of shells and cannon shot, and it appearing indispensably necessary to embrace every favourable opportunity for procuring those articles: The committee therefore give it as their opinion, and will recommend that you be allowed and paid, for any quantity of shot, and shells, not exceeding the above amount, that shall be delivered agreeable to the direction of General Knox, at your furnace, in season for use, this campaign, similar pay and emoluments, with those in Pennsylvania, who shall furnish the like articles, by contract with the honorable board of war.

That measures will be immediately taken for procuring an exemption from military duty, such number of men, as may be necessarily employed in manufacturing the shells and shot; and that you be furnished with one Ton of flour, six barrels of pork, and half a Ton of beef per week, til further order. And this committee will make a proper representation of the matter to Congress, and advise that the sum of money you mention, be advanced.²

We are, Sir, Your most obedient Humble servants,

Philip Schuyler

John Mathews

Nath Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ Faesch is identified in these *Letters*, 3:172-73n.

² The committee made a proper "representation" to Congress this day, for which

see the following entry, note 9. The committee's letter was read in Congress on July 24, the same day that Congress resolved, pursuant to a report of the Board of War, that 615 tons of shot and 947 tons of shells be procured with "all possible despatch," allotting \$4 million for that purpose the following day. *JCC*, 17:654, 658-61, 668. Faesch may have been among the "Ironmasters in Pennsylvania and Jersey" with whom the Board of War and Ordnance contracted and on whose behalf the board repeatedly beseeched Congress for funds to honor the contracts. See *JCC*, 18:929, 1202, 19:149, 205, 254, 263, 278-79.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress
Preakness, July 18, 1780.

Sir

We do ourselves the honor to transmit your Excellency copy of a letter from the Quarter Master General, Marked **A**, with copies number 1 to 13 of sundry papers delivered therewith, and of our Answer **B**.¹ We hope the reasons assigned for our interference on this occasion will meet the approbation of Congress.

The fleet and land force of our Ally are arrived at Rhode Island; a few days refreshment will put the latter in condition to take the field; and the former to point its operations where it may be directed. The eyes of Europe generally, and those of all America are intently turned to Congress, and to the operations of their Army in this Campaign. Those of the powers of Europe, in order to determine our Character, and to judge by the event of this Campaign whether it will be prudent to espouse our Cause or to throw their weight in the opposite Scale. Those of America in anxious expectations that an attempt will be made to expel the Enemy from that strong hold, whence they have given these states so much annoyance. The hopes of the people are raised in proportion to the exertions of the states.

But as we cannot contemplate without horror, the effects of disappointment—as we apprehend that it will be experienced from the want of exertion in some states; It behoves this Committee entrusted to call forth the resources of the Country, in order to enable the army to act with vigour and efficacy in any Co-operation with the force from France; to recapitulate the measures they have pursued to accomplish the object of their appointment and thereby afford an opportunity to their Constituents, and if necessary, to their compatriots to judge whether they have conducted with propriety or not; and to whom the misfortunes which will result from an inactive campaign will be Justly imputable.

On the 23d of May we were honored with the Acts of Congress of the 19th of that Month directing us to require from the states

whatever was necessary to enable our Army to Co-operate with the then expected succour from France. On the 25th we addressed a circular letter to the states, in which we detailed the difficulties and distresses the army sustained, truly delineated its weakness and its wants; and remarked that every reliance for assistance and relief was placed in the states, both in point of recruits for the Army, the necessary provisions to *subsist* it; and the means of transportation. We earnestly entreated their attention to these important *objects*, and that they would adopt such measures as would most effectually accomplish the great views Congress had in Contemplation, and we concluded our address with, exhibiting the probable consequences which inattention, neglect or want of adequate exertion would produce. On the 31st May the Commander in Chief in a letter to the Committee, urged the necessity of knowing with precision the means America would have in her power to employ in an operation with the Combined force against the object, he had in view, and of which we were advised. In consequence of this application we wrote a third Circular letter to the states on the 2d June, requesting *specific* aids of men, provisions, forage, Horses, and Carriages to be attached to the Army, and the means of transportation for the variety of articles Incident to its wants. We stated the principles on which the allotments to each were made, we observed that the requisitions, tho large were barely competent, that they were the least adequate to the intended operations—that it appeared essential a proper understanding should prevail on all hands—that the states should be fully informed of our wants, That the General and the Committee should be clearly and explicitly advised of the ability of the states, both individually & Collectively, and to have what might be expected and relied on determined with precision. Exigencies which have subsequently arisen, impelled to the necessity of reiterated applications, Copies of which have been regularly transmitted to Congress.

It was reasonable to conclude that every state so fully advised of the alarming situation of public affairs, would not have left any measure to which it was equal unassayed, to preserve the empire from the impending ruin with which it was threatened to support its honor, and maintain its Character amongst the powers of the Earth, and effectually to establish the great object to accomplish which they had already expended such a deluge of blood. We have learnt with the most sensible satisfaction, that the people in most of the states are roused from the torpor which had so generally prevailed. That a due sense of duty to their Country has with all ranks of men been productive of a patriotic activity evincing that they mean effectually to support the Common Cause—that some of the states, from whom aid has been required have explicitly advised us of their intentions, whilst others have been partial & some altogether silent on the subject.

Massachusetts Bay has engaged Compleatly to Comply with the requisitions of Congress and this Committee in every article. Rhode-Island has done the like, except as to the militia and the article of Rum on which they have not been explicit. Connecticut has engaged to Comply in the whole, altho the Governor expresses a doubt If the state will be able to furnish all the flour & salt. New York has engaged to Comply in the whole, but the Governor observes that the short forage can not be immediately supplied; but that the whole quantity called for, will be delivered directly after harvest. New Jersey has engaged to furnish the provisions required of them, the horses and waggons to be attached to the Army—to empress carriages for transportation in the Counties of Hunterden—Burlington—Montmouth—Essex and Sussex; To compleat their three Battalions, but do not say to what number—“but they have not vested in any persons such powers as to enable them on the requisition of Congress or their Committee to draw forth the *military* resources of the state.

Delaware, has *generally* engaged to comply with the requisitions of Congress and of this Committee, and the Governor has given assurances that he will exert himself to the utmost, but no horses, Waggon, or forage have yet been delivered. Maryland has engaged to compleat her Battallions to the Establishment of 504 Rank & file—by raising 1469 Men to serve during the War and to raise another battallion for the same term; If by this, she can be excused from furnishing her Militia, “unless in cases of extreame emergency.” The General and the Committee conceiving this an offer favourable to the United states have acquiesced in the proposition, but she has given no assurances on any other part of our requisitions. Virginia, by subsequent Acts of Congress to those of the 19th May being directed to dispose of her supplies for the southern Army, except so much short forage as could be spared for the Army, has given assurances that the greatest quantity possible will be sent. From New Hampshire, we have no official accounts; private information advises that it is exerting itself. Pennsylvania, has not favour’d us with a single line, in answer to the various applications we have made; Some horses but a number vastly short of what we required have been sent to the Army—a quantity of Beef whether exceeding or not the quantity required, we cannot say. A little a very little flour, not more than fifty Barrels as the Commissary General informs. A little Rum, no Bacon, no forage that the Quarter Master General knows of, no Waggons, Some recruits for the Army—but we are informed that they do not intend to Compleat their Battallions to the establishment recommended by the General and the Committee. We are ignorant of the measures if any, which they have taken to draw forth the 3465 militia required of them.²

Thus Sir, have we stated the prospects we have and Congress will perceive that the General & the Committee are far from being able

to determine with precision what may be expected, consequently the former finds himself embarrassed and distressed in the moment when every doubt should have been removed, and when every hour is of such importance—that if not clearly improved, the success of the operations will be greatly endangered. In this Crises, when the honor and reputation of Congress & their constituents are so eminently exposed—when a want of Virtue and exertion clearly involves the destruction of the Empire; we conceived it our indispensable duty, as public men, and part of the directing council of the federal union, charged with an important Mission, plainly to expose facts without exaggeration; but without disguise or palliation. If we had remained silent we should have been culpable. If we had been deterred by the fear of offending, It would have argued an unbecoming pusillanimity. These sentiments have influenced us, and under that influence we shall continue our observations, and intreat the attention of Congress to the return which accompanied our letter of the 2d June last. In which is stated the number of men & quantum of supplies requested from each state. We wish Congress to compare what is required from each with the aggregate of the whole; and it will be evinced that the non-Compliance of such a state as Pensylvania will render it impossible to prosecute the operations which the Commander in Chief contemplates. It will appear that any considerable deficiency on her part will render it difficult to act offensively at all; and that she is not surcharged in the allotment made, when her extent of Country—her Numbers—her Commerce—and her resources are compared with those of the other states. But if Pensylvania will not, or willing, cannot afford, at least a great portion of what has been requested of her—and if we cannot without her aid prosecute the object of the Campaign, Is it not time to put a stop to the great exertions which several of the states are making? We think it is, least *they* should so far exhaust themselves as to be hereafter render'd incapable of the means of defence, unless measures can be *adopted* to induce every state to afford those aids which are necessary to promote the weal of the Union, and to establish its Independance on a permanent & lasting Basis.

The arrival of the french force, and the hopes which were afforded the Commander in Chief that by the exertions of Congress & the states, he would be put in condition to Co-operate with the succour of our Ally, render'd it incumbent on him to take the necessary steps for operation. Among other things, he directed that the flour in Sussex County should be remov'd with all expedition to Hudsons River, Carriages were required of this state to convey it to Warrick, in the state of New York, beleiveing that they would be obtained; he orderd that others should be procured in that state to convey it to Hudsons River; upwards of an hundred of the latter went to the place, but no flour had arrived there; the Inhabitants of this State

absolutely refusing to go, unless they were immediately paid, altho urged by every consideration which could influence their humanity, or their feelings as Citizens; hence the flour, small as the quantity is, remains in Sussex, the troops at West Point, rapidly increasing in number, and a few days is to bring on, another involuntary fast, in that quarter.

General Knox, has likewise been ordered to remove a variety of stores, to Hudsons River, and to apply to the Quarter Master Genl. for the means of transportation, which must be considerable. Inclose you Copy of General Greenes Letters on the subject, marked C.³ To procure carriages by military aid, on very sudden emergency's is not only right, but may be eligible on the occasion; but to rely on it, in a serious operation which will probably continue for months, would be precarious, inadequate, and ruinous to the Army, and to the inhabitants. We do not mean that it Should be infer'd that this state, which has already greatly exerted itself in this Line, is any degree equal to the transportation of the Stores, which must pass through it in the course of the Campaign. It can afford considerable assistance, but it must be aided by others, and it is impossible to mistake by *which*.⁴

The adjutant General and his Deputies—The judge Advocate and his—The Regimental adjutants, Quarter Masters, surgeons & Mates have requested us to obtain a determination of Congress whether they are considered as Entitled to that justice which has been done to the line of the Army by the act of the 9th of April last—and whether at the Conclusion of the War they are to partake of the bounty of the states in point of Land and other emoluments.⁵ Connecticut has settled the depreciation with the surgeons and Mates, in their line, on the original establishment of 1776. Representations have been made us on this head, and they claim it on the subsequent establishment which guided the settlement with the other Officers; We mention this matter that it may be considered in the deliberations of Congress on the subject of this paragraph, and we intreat a speedy determination in order to remove the fears and jealousies which prevail in regard to this matter, and we wish, if possible that the *decision* should be extended to comprehend such Officers in the civil departments of the Army as have served on daily or monthly pay, in order to prevent that multiplicity of applications with which we are daily perplexed, and to Erradicate this source of discontent.

Mr. Schuyler in a letter of 6th Instant (the Committee being absent) mentioned the inconveniency which the Officers labourd under, in not receiving the subsistance money for the retaind rations.⁶ In answer to their applications on this distressing Subject, Assurances were given that Congress would be advised of the matter, and that a speedy decision would be requested. Indeed Sir, the disagreeable spirit which is already unhappily too prevalent on this occasion is increasing and

unless speedily attended to, may be productive of serious consequences.

Yesterday two Officers of Colo. Hazens Regiment waited on us,⁷ and represented in behalf of themselves and others that they had left their native Country, to follow our fortunes, that previous to their leaving Canada they made Considerable disbursements in Specie to promote our service, Colo Hazen assures us to the amount of about five hundred pounds sterling, and that it is included in his accounts, which are passed but remain unpaid. These officers are, as they declare, so destitute of Cloaths that they are incapable of doing duty, and some of their family's residing in different parts of the Country, are suffering for want of the mere necessary's of life. Their case is peculiar, they have no friends from whence they can draw Assistance; humanity pleads so strongly in their favour that we cannot dispence with most earnestly recommending that some money should be advanced them without delay.

The Commander in Chief, has put into our hands a letter from the Board of War to him on the subject of military Stores,⁸ and desired us to take some steps in consequence of it. In this letter the board observes that "the time is too short for complying with the Estimate for Sixty days, that they are convinced of the utter impracticability of procuring more than half the amount of the Estimate last sent." That "had they money and were time enough allowed them for procuring the shott & Shells, they are convinced a *sufficient quantity of powder could not be obtained.*" That "they will do their utmost to procure the articles mentioned in the Estimate for thirty days, but thought it unnecessary to begin the provision without being informed whether or not the business can be undertaken. If the articles agreeable to the thirty days Estimate as at first furnished can be had, and they beg His Excellency's speedy answer on the subject." The letter is of the 11th Inst. and was not received until four O Clock Yesterday. It were to be wished that the board had gone on with the matter, as far as was possible for them to do, that so much time as must now of necessity be lost might have been saved. We intreat the business may be spiritedly entered on, and upon the largest Estimate, and the articles forwarded from time to time as they are prepared; We mention the largest Estimate as the board will perceive that in the one which they have transmitted, they state as on hand In Pensylvania sundry articles, which General Knox had already included in his Return, as part of the amount which he stated to be in hand, hence the deficiency's appear to be less than they really are.

The Board presumes General Knox, can influence the proprietors of Iron Works in this State to enter on the business of Casting shott & shells. Mr. Faesh has given proposals, to make about two hundred Tons. We have requested him to commence the work and have given

him assurances we would recommend that he will receive the same allowance which is, or may be given by the board of War, in the State of Pensylvania, and that we would likewise recommend that he should be furnished with the money he requires, which is "Twenty thousand pounds immediately or five thousand pounds weekly, on account, or he will give loan Office Certificates in lieu to that amount." We believe he will accede to this, and hope the Congress approves That measures may be pursued to furnish the money.⁹

General Greene has transmitted us Copy of a letter from Mr. Wadsworth to him, which we have the honor to inclose marked **D**.¹⁰ The subject is interesting. General Greene informs us that the forage required from the Eastern states cannot be converted to the use of the french Troops, as there will not be a sufficiency for ours, especially since the supply required from Virginia depends on the contingency of that state being able to spare any without, distressing the Southern Army. It seems necessary that this business should claim the earliest consideration of Congress.

Colo. Hazen has presented us a memorial accompanied with other papers marked **E**. As it is far from being within the line of our duty to decide upon the contents; we transmit them to your Excellency for the inspection of Congress. A Monsieur Garranger has also put into our hands a memorial **F** which for similar reasons we also transmit.¹¹

In our remarks on the requisition made of Pensylvania and in stating what we are advised she has furnished, we took no notice of that generous aid of the associated Company of her Citizens, because we conceived an evident distinction, between the exertions of a state and some individuals of it—nor will that Assistance capital as it is militate against our conclusion "that the military operations in contemplation cannot be prosecuted," without great exertions in the Government of that state.¹²

By resolutions of Congress the Commander in Chief is restricted in his operations to the limits of the United States. It would be easy to assign a variety of conclusive reasons, that such restraint may be attended with many disagreeable consequences, whilst no[t] a single advantage can possibly result from it. But we wave stating them as we conceive the restriction has arisen from mere accident in wording the resolution, and that barely mentioning it, will lead to a reconsideration. If the General has not conveyed you his sentiments on the occasion, we are inclined to impute it to a delicacy which may not permit him to request an extention of power, rather than to any doubt he may entertain on the propriety of the measure we allude to as necessary. Should the Sentiments of Congress be coincident with ours on this subject, the present posture of affairs will indicate that their decision cannot be too early conveyed to this quarter.¹³

We have the honor to be, With great Respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedt. Humble servants,

Ph. Schuyler

Nathl. Peabody¹⁴

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Peabody and Schuyler.

¹ For "our answer B," see Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene, July 16, 1780. See also the committee's letter to Greene, July 21.

² For additional information received by the committee on preparations in the states, see the committee's letter to Huntington, July 23, 1780. For its relations with Pennsylvania, see the committee's letters to Joseph Reed, June 12 and July 13; and Philip Schuyler to Washington, June 18, 1780.

³ For Nathanael Greene's July 16 and 17 letters to the committee enclosing letters from Udney Hay and Charles Pettit, see PCC, item 155, 1:331-42.

⁴ That is, Pennsylvania.

⁵ For petitions from aggrieved officers received by the committee at this time, see PCC, item 39, 3:243-47, 263-64.

⁶ See Schuyler to Huntington, July 6, 1780.

⁷ The "two Officers" have not been identified.

⁸ The board's July 11 letter and Washington's July 18 reply are in the Washington Papers, DLC.

⁹ See the preceding entry.

¹⁰ Greene's covering letter of July 19 is in PCC, item 155, 1:345-46. It was endorsed by Schuyler, "sent the Inclosed to Congress—July 19. 1780." The copy of Wadsworth's letter, which is not in PCC, was referred to the Board of War on August 2. *JCC*, 17:687.

¹¹ Neither the memorial from Moses Hazen nor Lewis Garanger, which were referred to the Board of War on August 2, has been found. An earlier memorial of February 12 that Hazen had submitted to Washington concerning his rank and losses he had sustained is in the Washington Papers, DLC. For the Board of War's report and Congress' September 29 resolution on the Garanger case, see *JCC*, 18:863, 872-73. The committee was severely criticized for having received these memorials, for which see note 14 below.

¹² See the committee's July 10 letter to the Philadelphia Merchants' Association and its July 13 letter to Joseph Reed.

¹³ For a discussion of Congress' resolutions of January 31 and May 20 intended to ensure cooperation between French and American forces but interpreted as implying a limitation on Washington's powers, see Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston, May 30, 1780, note 4. Washington's continued concern that these restrictions be removed before any operations take place prompted this request that Congress resolve what must have been "a mere accident in wording the resolution." For Congress' favorable action, see Huntington's August 3 letters to the committee and to Washington.

¹⁴ This letter and the committee's two letters of July 21 were read in Congress on July 24 and referred to a committee of five, chaired by Samuel Adams. Before it reported, the committee also received Washington's July 22 letter of support for the committee at headquarters' appeal in which he found it "indispensable that Congress should enlarge the Powers of their Committee." See *JCC*, 17:654, 681; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:236. Adams' committee reported August 1 and the following day Congress adopted a series of resolves dealing with the substance of the report but also rebuking the committee for arrogation of authority. Congress had already determined Nathanael Greene's "responsibility" within the quartermasters department, and since "the said committee knew that the quarter master general had requested the sense of Congress on so important a subject, they ought not to have

interfered therein." Moreover, the memorials received from Moses Hazen, Lewis Garanger, and other applicants "which seem to have employed their time and attention, should have been made directly to Congress, and the committee should thus have informed the applicants." *JCC*, 17:685-88. For the committee's response to these rebukes, see John Mathews to Samuel Huntington, August 16, 1780. Both of these points became the focus of the committee's eventual defense of its conduct in its report to Congress, for which see John Mathews to Schuyler, August 23, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Holten to John Avery

My dear Sir.

Phila. July 18th 1780.

I thank you for your favor of the 6th inst. & for the care you have taken of my business.

I have made application agreeably to your request for blank commissions &c, & hope to be able to send them forward before I leave this place, which I expect will be soon.

I am, with sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

Samuel Holten to William Story

Dr Sr.

Philada. July 18th. 1780

Your favor of the 1st inst I recd. yesterday; I hope mine of the 23d ultimo came safe to hand, and to which I beg leave to refer you for my sentiments respecting your affairr, the board of Treasury have not yet reported,¹ if they should while I tarry here, I will attend to the same & it will give me pleasure to serve you.

I am, Sir, with sincere respect, your most obedient

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ For the Board of Treasury's recommendation on Story's request for an increase in salary, see Holten to Story, June 23, 1780, note.

Holten's statement that "the board of Treasury have not yet reported" is either an error on Holten's part or a reference to the board's report that action on Story's salary be deferred until "general rules shall be established by Congress, relieving against the effects of depreciation."

Benjamin Huntington to Jabez Huntington

Dear Sir

Philadelphia July 18th 1780

I find myself under obligation of Regard to Write to more Friends than I have time to Attend to, & having till within a few Days been Prevented by the Small Pox from writing to any, you have all been

treated alike though much against my Will have I been Silent but it is Rather Humorous to Observe that but two Letters have been Recd by the Delegates from our State since the first of June one of them was from Mr Sherman's Wife and the other from mine untill Yesterday when one Came from Col. Root and two or three Official Letters were Recd by the President from Govr Trumbull.¹

On Saturday Evening the News of the French Fleet at New Port was Recd but no Particulars and today the News of Admiral Graves's Arrival at N York with Six Sail of the Line² that he had a Battle with the French on the Passage in which Graves had a 74 Gun Ship Sunk. Congress are going on with the Business of the Warr & C. with good Harmony their Most Interesting Doings are Constantly Published in the Papers and need not to be mentioned by me.

By the Papers brought Yesterday by Brown it appears that Connecticut are at last Rouzed to the Acts of Emitting Money and Detaching Men, the former of which will be better for the State than to have Congress Emit Enough for Publick Necessity because we Shall not be hampered by Other States in Calling in our Bills, but if our Bills Dont Depreciate it will be because our State Grows Wiser and not because the People are better than of late. Please to Give my Duty Your Mother & Mine & Proper Regards to Friends & tell Mr Wales that a Line from him to me would not Give the Small Pox and that my Love to him is without Infection. I want the Pleasure of hearing what is Doing in my State as it is a help in many Cases in Doing the [work] of Congress, for the Members to be Acquainted with the Affairs at Home.

Be Pleased to Remember me in Particular to Mrs Huntington.

I am with Sentiment of Regard [&] Affection, Yours & ca.

Benj Huntington

RC (CtHi: Benjamin Huntington Papers). Addressed: "Capt. Jabez Huntington, Windham, Connecticut."

¹ For Trumbull's letters, see Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, July 22, 1780.

² The news of British Admiral Thomas Graves' appearance at New York arrived in one of General Washington's July 15 letters to Congress, which were read in Congress this day. See PCC, item 152, 9:21-22; Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:180; and JCC, 17:638.

Joseph Jones to George Washington

Dear Sr,

Phila. 18th July 1780

A Report from the Board of War in consequence of a Letter of Genl. Gates's to Congress refd. to the Board respecting the promotion of Col. Danl. Morgan to the office of Brigadier General, now

lies upon the Table, at my request. The Board have stated his former Services—his being first Colonel of our Line, and the deficiency of that State at present in her Quota of Troops. If a promotion of General officers is to take place and to be made through the line of the Army Morgan has many before him but if the promotions are to be through the line of the State that officer it appears stands first. Genl. Gates has mentioned his intention of giving Morgan the Command of a Body of light Infantry, but as the State has given the command of the Militia lately sent to the Southward to Col. Stevens who was Morgans junior officer in the Continental line with the Commission of Brigadier General he will command Col. Morgan and this Gates thinks will disgust him and therefore with great earnestness and warmth presses his promotion. I shall thank you for your confidential communications upon this matter as the Report I think will not be pressed or taken up untill the Virga. Delegates are fully informed as it was upon my motion to obtain time for information it lies upon the Table. Besides as he left the Army in disgust under your immediate command I did not like the present mode of his obtaining the promotion, without (that I know of) any alteration of circumstances, at the pressing instance of General Gates.¹ Pray my dear Sr. do you recollect the purport of a Letter lately written to Col. Harrison Speaker of the Delegates, representing the deranged state of the French Finances theirs as well as Spains declining Navy and the increasing growing Strength of the British Navy. I have heard of such a Letter that Gentleman received from you and had shewn it to many of the Members of our assembly and that it was like to prejudice rather than promote the Service. I mention this is confidence as the purport of the Letter may have been misrepresented and I have it not directly from one who saw it or heard it read. Between ourselves I fear that worthy Man is no zealous Friend of the Alliance—I may be mistaken but it is my present opinion.² An account transmitted the Admiralty Board by Genl. Foreman makes the British on the N. York Station nine line of Battle Ships, two or three fiftys and 17 Frigates and other armed Vessells—should this intelligence be true the French Fleet as we have been told (though we have not yet the particulars of their strength) will be unequal to the undertaking. My Letters from Virga. speak of our people as being roused—a Bill had passed the Delegates by a Majority of 3 only adopting the scheme of Finance recommended by Congress—thirteen of the Senate only were present the opinion of ten of these publicly known five for & five agt. the Bill. It was conjectured the others were in favour of the measure. Every 15th Militia man is to be drafted to fill up the deficiency of our line, this Bill was also before the Senate. I hope you find the Recruits coming in fast—the news of the arrival of the Fleet will accelerate them. With great respect I am, Dr. Sr., yr. aff hum. Servt.

Jos. Jones.

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ Daniel Morgan had resigned his commission in July 1779, but was recalled into service in the southern department in June 1780, for which see these *Letters*, 13:347n.4; and Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates, June 16, 1780. Gates' July 4 appeal in support of Morgan's promotion was read in Congress on the 10th and referred to the Board of War which made a favorable recommendation on July 14. See *JCC*, 17:595, 612-13; and *PCC*, item 154, 2:210-13. Congress, however, delayed further consideration of the report until October 13, when, in response to other appeals, it promoted Morgan to "remove several embarrassments which impede the public service in the southern department," for which see Huntington to Horatio Gates, October 14, 1780, note 2.

For Washington's July 22 response to this letter and assessment of Morgan's resignation, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:224-27.

² For an explanation of Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, which has apparently not survived, see *ibid.*, p. 226n.97.

Medical Committee to Horatio Gates

Sir. Philadelphia July 18th. 1780.

The medical committee of Congress have seen an Extract of a letter from you to the board of War dated the 21st ultimo,¹ respecting the medical department; they have sent forward such medicines as they tho't most proper & directed Dr. Brown, Dr. Johnston, & Dr. Read, to join the army under your command; And they have also directed me to inclose under cover to you directions to Dr. Oliphant Director Genl. of the hospitals in the southern department;² and it is desired by the committee that you send them into Charles-Town to Dr. Oliphant in such way as you think most proper; you will please to take notice that the letter to Dr. Oliphant is not sealed, but if it can go insealed, please to be so kind as to put one on.

In behalf of the committee, S. Holten Chairman

RC (NH: Gates Papers). Written and signed by Samuel Holten.

¹ General Gates' June 21 letter to the Board of War is not in *PCC*, or the microfilm edition (1979) of the Gates Papers.

² The Medical Committee's letter to Dr. David Oliphant has not been found.

Committee at Headquarters to Azariah Dunham

Sir, In Committee of Congress Preakness July 19. 1780

The Commissary General of Forage, having laid before this Committee a copy of your letter to him of the 14th Inst., And represented that great embarrassments daily occur in transporting supplies, obtained in other states, through this state, for the use of the Continental Army, for want of pasturing &ca. which the Laws of the state do not oblige their contractors to furnish. Therefore to remove a

difficulty so injurious to the operations of the Army, the Committee are induced in behalf of the United States, earnestly to intreat that you will take the most effectual measures to procure and furnish for the horses and Teams to be employed in such transportation, whatever quantity of pasturing, and other forage, the quarter Master General, his Assistants, or Deputies, may from time to time request.¹

We are, with sentiments of esteem, Your very Hble Servts.

P. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ Dunham, the superintendent of purchases for New Jersey, had written to commissary general of forage Clement Biddle on July 14 questioning whether the laws of New Jersey authorized contractors to provide pasturage for teams transporting supplies not purchased in the state and asking for a requisition, or an order from Washington or the committee, so that he might "avoid transgressing the Law by which I have my Appointment." PCC, item 78, 3:509.

Samuel Huntington to Pierre Eugène Du Simitière

Sir, Philada July 19. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 14th Instant which I hope will give you some Encouragement, and be of Use in collecting further Materials in carrying on and compleating your intended Memoirs and Observations on the Origin and present State of North America.¹

I am Sir &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Du Simitière had originally petitioned for congressional support for collecting materials for his "Memoirs and Observations" in July 1779, but he had received no response to this request. He had since reminded Congress of this oversight on December 24, 1779, and on July 10, 1780, he again drew attention to his petition. The resolve of the 14th that Huntington enclosed with this letter "recommended to the several states, upon his application, to afford him such assistance as may be most beneficial to him, in rendering his said work compleat and useful," but a committee recommendation to pay him \$2,000 yearly for three years for this work was repealed after it was initially adopted. See *JCC*, 17:606, 613; and PCC, item 78, 20:483-86, 515-18. For the background of this case, see also John Fell's Diary, November 26, 1779.

Du Simitière apparently sought to obtain a reconsideration of this disappointing congressional response the following day, but according to a tantalizing note in secretary Thomson's journal, he withdrew his appeal on the 24th. See *JCC*, 17:648n.1; and PCC, item 1, 28:109.

Samuel Huntington to Joseph Reed

Sir, Philada July 19. 1780

Your Excellency will observe by the Papers and Act of Congress of the 18th Instant herewith enclosed, that the Petition of Thomas Jones &c, and the Case of others in similar Circumstances are referred to the President & Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, to grant such relief as they shall Judge Just and reasonable.¹

Your Excellency's Despatches of yesterday are received, and shall be laid before Congress this Morning.²

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedt servt,
S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The petition of Thomas Jones et al., of Capt. Isaac Coren's company of Col. Benjamin Flower's Regiment of Artillery Artificers, had been received by Congress and referred to committee on June 28. The committee's report, read on July 11 and adopted on July 18, endorsed the petitioner's claim that they were eligible for discharge because their enlistments had been "to serve three years unless sooner discharged by Congress," but recommended referring the case to the Pennsylvania Council because the corps "may at this time be considered as a part of [the state's] quota of troops." The council immediately referred the matter to a committee of Pennsylvania officers, who also endorsed the petitioners' contention, but nevertheless recommended that the case "be settled in such manner as Congress shall think best," and the council returned the committee's report on August 7. This communication was then referred to the Board of War, which referred it to General Washington on August 14. The final disposition of the case has not been discovered. See *JCC*, 17:566, 604, 641-42, 712; PCC, item 19, 3:293-95; and *Pa. Council Minutes*, 12:427-28, 438-39. The Pennsylvania Council's letter to Congress of August 7, with its recommendations of the 2d, and the Board of War's letter to Washington of August 14, are in the Washington Papers, DLC. See also John B. B. Trussell, Jr., *The Pennsylvania Line: Regimental Organization and Operations, 1776-1783* (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1977), p. 227.

² *JCC*, 17:642. Reed's "Despatches of yesterday" consisted of his letter of July 17, and an enclosure, protesting recent criticism of the state for inadequate compliance with Continental requisitions, for which see Committee at Headquarters to Joseph Reed, July 13, 1780.

James Lovell to Benjamin Lincoln

Dear Sir, July 19th. 1780.

Your Letter of July 5th to the Delegates of Mass'ts. and That of the 7th to me came duely on. I am sorry that there is any Delay as to the Court of Enquiry, and more so that you are not quite certain of a speedy Exchange.¹ I have complied with your Request as to the Taylor's Bill but the Cutler must find me out, I shall not seek him; the Negro who was to be my informant had left the Family before your Letter reached me. You may "honestly" pay Mrs. L——what

I have advanced for you to Stilly agreeably to the Receipt inclosed. We are as to News from Rh. Isld. as we were from Charleston. "Ships were seen which answered private Signals on the 10th and are doubtless now in Port 1 o'Clock mornng. of 11th Providence" recd. *three days ago*. We shall know *in a Fortnight* whether the french fleet is arrived or not.

Yr. humb. Servt.

James Lovell

Tr (DLC: Burnett Collection). Copied for Edmund C. Burnett from the original then in the possession of Stan V. Henkels. Addressed: "Honble. Major General Lincoln, Boston."

¹ For General Washington's reasons for delaying both Lincoln's court of inquiry and exchange as a prisoner, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:147-50. Lincoln was exchanged for Gen. William Phillips on October 25, 1780. *Ibid.*, 20:243, 315.

Committee at Headquarters to George Washington

Sir In Committee of Congress, Preakness July. 20. 1780

Since the Conversation we had with your Excellency on the subject of Cloathing the troops, We have maturely considered the matter, and from every point of view, in which we have revolved it, are fully of Opinion, That to put the army into an entire Uniform, will have a happy influence on the soldiery; and tend to inspire the foreign troops, with a more respectable opinion of ours, than would be entertained, were they to continue in their present motly dress. These considerations in addition to those which arise from reflecting that it will redound to the honor and Credit of the states, Induce us to advise (if your Excellency thinks it will afford satisfaction to the army) that the Cloathing arrived from france, should be distributed amongst such of the men, as are engaged during the War. That the uniforms now possessed by these, should be given to the recruits, who are to serve to the end of the Campaign. But as this will deprive those who are engaged for the war, of the use of the Cloaths, which must in this case be considered as their own property: We think, If they insist upon it, that appraisment should be made, and assurances given them, that the value will be paid. The recruits who may receive the same to account for the value in such manner as Congress may direct.

We have the honor to be, with great respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obt. Humble servants,

Pli. Schuyler
Nathl. Peabody

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Peabody and Schuyler.

John Armstrong, Sr., to Horatio Gates

[July 21, 1780]

21st. The Court Martial has clearly acquitted Dr. Shipen of all the charges exhibited agst. him except One for *Speculation*, in Some Articles needed by the publick in his Own line—for which Says the Court he is *Reprehensible*. The General having thrown the decision of that matter on Congress, we are now tormented with reading the rubbish of large bundles of testimony, but not yet come to the Doctors defence which will probably end, indeed must end, in approving the Sentence of the Court Martial.¹

Great Exertions are proposed & expected from the middle & Eastern States relative to the Object—New-York. If this shou'd reach you before you leave Richmond please to present my best respects to Mr. R. Henry Lee, and tell him that his old friends here depend on his utmost influence in favour of the Southern Army, not only in regard of the present critical Struggle, but also to resque the reputation of the State in military idea & other matters to which he cannot be a Stranger. Before you are thousands of disaffected men, from whom perhaps for this Campaign you have more to apprehend than from the Common Enemy and how are these to be either reclaimed or Subdued but by a Respectable force, at the outSetting—trifling this Crisis can only Serve to make their bonds Strong, and Spread the Contagion farther than at present may be immagined. The promotion of our worthy friend Coll Morgan appears to labour, it will rest chiefly with the Govt. & delegates of Virginia. I wish him as I do my own Son for the present to travel on in the line of duty, which when wisely and Succesfully performed will Secure it's honors distinct from those arising from Rank. The Board of War have yet reported nothing in the Other instance, nor is their determination yet known to me, but Shall Soon be able to find it, and then write. What wou'd you think of a Brevet, if at present nothing else cou'd go down? I can not by this Post write Major Armstrong, but have procured the Articles for which he wrote me. They will in a few days go on with Mr. Clajong & the Medicins by Water to Richmond. Doctors Brown & Johnston go to you. I have forwarded Coll. Cusinscoes letter but have not yet heard from him. I am dear General with perfect respect your Affectionate friend & humbl. Servt.

John Armstrong

[P.S.] The heat here has left me but able to breath, it is now abated. I shall write the Major fully as soon as I can. Governor Rutledge tells me his more Speedy or leisure return depends on a letter from you.

RC (NH: Gates Papers). A continuation of Armstrong to Gates, July 15, 1780.

¹ The proceedings of the court martial of Dr. William Shippen, Jr., director general

of Continental hospitals, had been received by Congress from Washington on July 18, and the subject was debated intermittently on July 19, 20, 22, 27, 28, 29, and 31, before being postponed for more than two weeks in August. The debate was resumed on August 16 in response to an appeal from Shippen for a decision confirming his acquittal, and continued on the 17th and 18th before his opponents reluctantly gave up their battle to retain one of the charges against him—"relating to his speculating in hospital stores, on which the court judge him highly reprehensible." The final maneuvers to reach a verdict ultimately turned on a procedural point—whether Congress could avoid inferring approval of the court's verdict merely by ordering that Shippen "be discharged from arrest" rather than resolving that "the said acquittal be confirmed," a compromise that was finally adopted on August 18 by a vote of 8 to 3. See *JCC*, 17:638, 646, 648, 654, 676-78, 680, 684, 737-38, 742, 744-46; *PCC*, item 78, 20:541-44; and Whitfield J. Bell, "The Court Martial of Dr. William Shippen, Jr., 1780," *Journal of the History of Medicine* 19 (July 1964): 218-38. See also Samuel Huntington to Washington, November 27, 1779, August 24, 1780; and Cyrus Griffin to John Morgan, March 15, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene

In Committee of Congress Camp
Preakness July 21 1780

Sir,

We are honoured with your letter of yesterday's date covering an Estimate delivered you by General Knox, stating the weight of Ordnance Stores, for which he requires the means of transportation; with one of yours, exhibiting what number of Carriages will be necessary to move those stores, and others you mention from Trenton to Dobbs Ferry.¹

You wish to be inform'd "Whether the Committee can give you full assurances, that such aid will be given in the business of transportation both with respect to teams and forage, and all other matters of Contingency dependant on the same, as will authorize you to engage to the General to perform the transportation required."² Convinced of the impracticability of prosecuting extensive military operations without ample means of transportation; the Committee have long since recommended it to the attention of the states individually—New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware seem to be the only States from which Carriages can be drawn for what stores may be moved from Trenton to Dobbs Ferry, and any intermediate or adjacent places, South of the Highlands and West of Hudsons River. The Government of this State, has empowered the Magistrates to impress teams, when required; but on a recent occasion they could not be procured in that manner. The Government of Pennsylvania, has not advised us of their intentions on this, or any other subject. The Governor of Delaware has promised that the state will exert itself to the utmost; generally to comply with the requisitions of this Committee; hence we are not sufficiently informed to decide what reliance can be made on their aid, or how far the Governments of

those states will interpose to procure it. The Committee in a late letter to Congress have been very Explicit on the subject of the various supplies requisite to put the Army into a state of activity, and impressed as that body undoubtedly is, with the importance of having matters of such high moment to the weal of their Constituents ascertained with every possible degree of precision, they will probably come to an eclaircissement with the states; and it seemes impossible that the latter should not be impelled to adequate exertion when they shall be convinced that the General cannot avail himself of any advantage which may offer or commence an operation whatever his force may be, unless supplied with the requisite stores and that an inactive Campaign will involve the states in a series of distress, which no friend to his Country can contemplate without the deepest anxiety; nor will the Committee fail to reiterate their observations on the subject. But should those states in whom a reliance must be more immediately placed for this aid, and which you assure us they are competent to be capable of a measure so injurious as to withhold it; We shall certainly not hesitate to advise and request that the Military be employed to assist you, in obtaining the necessary Carriages, persuaded that men who have entered into that profession to preserve their dearest rights as Citizens will execute the disagreeable duty with every possible decree of tenderness, and relying that we shall stand Justified with the virtuous part of the Community, who whilst they with us lament the necessity of the measure, will decide that of the two evils we had avoided the greater.

The Committee Sir, are sensible that providing the Teams & forage under the present plan of procuring supplies and aid, thro the medium of state agents not immediately dependant on your Department as Quarter Master General, does not render you accountable for their mal-conduct. We consider it, however, your duty to make the requisitions to the states and to prosecute every means in your power to obtain both. The Committee see with anxious concern the embarrassments which incessantly arise from such extensive dependence on the states for *every* supply—That it is productive of partial burthens on particular states from their local situation—That it will ever create a reluctance in the individuals of such states to the public service—That whilst a want of money compels Government to committ their affairs to persons not accountable to those whose reputation in a great measure depends on the Conduct of such persons; It is impossible business should be prosecuted with either propriety or oeconomy and persuaded that nothing can remedy this evil, and confine business to its proper Channel, unless the confidence of the Inhabitants is regained by adequate assurances that the debts due or such as may become due will be discharged without loss to the Creditors, and unless the Quarter Master Generals Department be supplied with money to pay for the necessary contingency's thereof.

Under this persuasion, the Committee will earnestly intreat Congress to turn their attention to both.

As many of the stores included in Genl. Knox's Estimate are at West Point and places East of Hudsons River, and others much nearer to Dobbs Ferry than Trenton, and as the whole quantity required will not be procured in time on this side of Hudsons River, We conceive the calculation of carriages on his Estimate very considerably too high. We also believe a diminution might take place in the others as the whole quantity of forage will not be carried on to Hudsons River—that of Virginia being directed another way, and that a substitute for it, will in all probability be drawn from New York and the more Eastern States. We wish you to reconsider the Estimate that the application may be the least that will effectually suffice, as it will diminish the difficulty in obtaining them, and evince that every attention is paid to the ease & Convenience of the states.³

We Are Sir, With great respect, Your Most Obt. Hble Servt.

(Copy) Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown; endorsed by Charles Thomson: "No. 1 Enclosed in Comee's letter July 23." Another copy by Brown as well as Schuyler's draft are in the Washington Papers, DLC.

¹ The RC and a copy of Greene's July 20 letter to the committee are in the Washington Papers, DLC, together with Henry Knox's estimate of "the weight of ordnance Stores" that Greene enclosed in his July 21 letter to Washington. The estimate of the "number of Carriages" that Greene sent to the committee under his signature on July 20 and an unsigned estimate that he sent to Washington on July 21 are also in the Washington Papers.

² Greene also warned that "Unless the Committee can provide ways and means of furnishing the Carriages and the forage necessary for them, the operations which the General has in contemplation cannot be prosecuted, without we have recourse to military force for obtaining them; and even this would be precarious and uncertain as well as unequal and distressing to those who lay most within reach of the Army." Washington Papers, DLC. For the copy sent to Congress, see PCC, item 39, 1:155-56.

³ The RC of Greene's reply of this day is in the Washington Papers, DLC, with a copy in PCC, item 39, 1:159.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress, Preakness
Sir, July 21st. 1780

The inclosed dispatch from the honorable John Adams to Congress was delivered us this morning; as Congress has not decided whether the reasons assigned by Mr. Schuyler for opening the last dispatch, were satisfactory or not, and conceiving it might contain matter

which the commander in chief ought to be advised, without delay, we have presumed to open and peruse the contents, which will not be disclosed to any person except the commander in chief, and to him under the seal of secrecy.¹ We have the honor to be, with great respect and esteem, Your Excellency's Most obedient humble Servts.,

Ph. Schuyler

Nathl Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Peabody and Schuyler.

¹ The "inclosed dispatch" was undoubtedly Adams' letter of March 23 that was read in Congress July 24, the same day that the committee's letter was read. See *JCC*, 17:654. For the "last dispatch" opened by the committee, see Schuyler to Huntington, July 5, 1780.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir Precaniss July 21st 1780

Since writing this Morning Mr Mathews is arrived & has brought Letters for the Committee from The Governor of Maryland and President of New Hampshire affording us full Information and much Satisfaction.¹ As the Express waits we must defer transmitting particulars to another Opportunity.

We have the Honor to be with great respect & Esteem, Your Excellency's Most Obedient, Huml Servant.

By order of the Committee,
Ph. Schuyler

[P.S.] Mr. Thompson will be so good as to return a Copy of this as Mr. Schuyler has not time [to] take one.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written and signed by Schuyler. Misdated by Charles Thomson in the endorsement: "Letter from comee at head Qrs., July 20. 1780. Read 24."

¹ For the July 10 letter from Thomas Sim Lee, see PCC, item 39, 3:191-94; and *Md. Archives*, 43:216-17. The letters of July 1, 2, and 6 from Meshech Weare are in PCC, item 39, 3:169-75, 185-86. Those of July 1 and 6 are also in *N.H. State Papers*, 10:515-17.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia July 21st. 1780

I receivd. your favour of the 18th Instant this day. The regulations for the Quartermaster department I mentioned in my last,¹ Meta-

morphosed as it is, passed Congress a few days since,² and is ordered to take place immediately. As it is now in the press & will be sent to you, I shall say no more on that subject.

Mr. Elsworth who is gone home to Conecticut, was your fast Friend, and his Country's friend. Mr. Shearman—he is full in the faith, that no more expence, aught to be created than the People will annually pay by Taxes. Yet I belive you may set the state of Conecticut, down as your Friend, if that can be determined by the Majority of their Delegates. Mr. Inger[soll] hath predujuded me much in his favour, he appears at all times to be governed, by principal of the strictest Honour and justice. Mr. Matlock is a strange Mortal, for a man of sence, I never know one day, where to find him the next, he hath a great notion of being a Courteor, perhaps in some Countries, he would appear a course Courteor. As for Livingston, Scott, & Duane, they were for Curtailing every sallery, fixed in the Q Master's System. They have something in view, what I am not certain. They make me think of the snake in the grass. It is often thrown out in Congress, as a burlesque, that who can expect such and such things of you, when you had the Modesty to write Congress you would serve them for Three Thousand a year stirling. Perhaps more of this in my next.

Congress are very Sanguine in their Expectation, on the intended offensive operations. It is not popalar, even to suppose a Miscariage, in case, any unforeseen accident should happen, much less to mention any of those difficulties, that at present, to me appear almost unsurmountable.

Congress in general appear exceeding easy in the present situation of affairs. There doth not appear the most distant wish for more powers, but rather on the Contrary, wish to see their States without controul (as the Term is) free, sovereign & Independant. If any thing appears difficult in regard to Supply &c. what can we do, why we can do nothing, the States must exert them selves, if they will not, they must suffer the Consequences.

For my own part I have been exceedingly disappointed in my expectations, in regard to Congress, and am still at a loss as to their motives and views, *if they have Any*. There appears to be a langor, that attends all our Conduct, want of decision and Spirited measures. The greatest part of our time is taken up in disputes about diction, Commas, Colons, Consonants, vowels &c. More in my next. I impatiently wait to hear from Rhode Island. I fear the British Fleet is gone there in quest of the French, if so fear the Consequence.

I am with every Sentiment of esteem and respect your most obedt, Huml. Servant.

¹ See Cornell to Greene, July 11, 1780, note 2.

² That is, on July 15. See *JCC*, 17:615-35.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[July 21-22, 1780]

21. Friday. I wrote to Mr. Peabody & Mrs. Holten (no. 142).¹ We have certain accts. of the arrival of a French Fleet at R.I.

22. Saturday. No new intelligence.

MS (MDaAr).

¹ For Holten's letter to Nathaniel Peabody, see the following entry. Holten's letter to his wife has not been found.

Samuel Holten to Nathaniel Peabody

Philada July 21st. 1780.

I have been honoured with yours of the 14th and 15th instant,¹ & have laid them before the medical Committee. Dr. Cochran has been fully heard by them; and when he waited on us with your Letter² you may be assured I attended carefully to what he said, after your recommendations. General Washington wrote by the Dr. on the same subject.³ The committee has laid an Estimate before Congress of the articles immediately wanted for the hospitals, & have reported a resolution to Congress, for 200,000 dollars, which I expect will pass this day.

The southern department has of late engaged the attention of the committee.⁴ Dr. Oliphant is directed to join the southern army, & Dr. Brown, Dr. Johnston & Dr. Read are sent forward with a quantity of med[icines] & a little cash to bear their expenses &c, and you may be assured that every thing will be done for the relief of the sick & wounded that can reasonably be expected under our embarrassed circumstances.

Dr. Brown Phy & Sur Genl has resigned which I am sorry for.

Dr. Shippen's tryal is come to hand, & been partly read in Congress, but it is so lengthy, it is uncertain when it will be passed upon.

We are waiting for a further confirmation of the intelligence from Rhode Island. I have the honor to be with sincere respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,

S Holten

P.S. There has been lately sent forward to the hospitals a considerable quantity of sug[ar] & spirits, which I hope has come to hand.

¹ Not found.² Not found; but Nathaniel Peabody would have been familiar with the hospital department as a member of both the Committee at Headquarters and the Medical Committee.³ In his July 15 letter to President Huntington, Washington explained the critical need for supplies for the hospitals. Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:181-82.⁴ See Medical Committee to Horatio Gates, July 18, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir, Philadelphia July 21. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 18th Instant, with a Copy of General Washington's Letter of the 10th, and an Estimate of Tents and other Camp Equipage wanted for the Army.

By this Act the four eastern States are requested to take such Measures as they may Judge will be most speedy and effectual for procuring within their respective States, the Portions mentioned in the Estimate, or as great a Part as may be had, especially of the most essential Kinds.¹

The Assurances given to the Subscribers to a Bank in Pennsylvania by the resolution of Congress of the 22d of June it is presumed you have received, the same having been forwarded by the Secretary in the printed Journal to the several States.

This Bank in Pennsylvania have subscribed a Fund of three hundred thousand Pounds in Specie, and undertaken therewith to supply Provision to feed an Army of forty thousand Men for two Months, and Congress by the resolution above referred to, have engaged to indemnify and reimburse them. It is hoped that Gentlemen in the eastern States will not be behind them in their Exertions on this Occasion.

I have the Honor to be, with very great respect, your Excellency's most obedt servt,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "His Excellency Governor Trumbull. The like to New Hampshire, Mass. Bay, and Rhode Island."

¹ Faced with a severe shortage of tents as well as a breakdown in both the Continental and state systems for supplying his army, Washington had suggested to Congress on July 10 that the merchants of New England be requested to form an association for procuring tents in imitation of the recent initiative of the merchants of Philadelphia to provision the Continental Army on private credit. His suggestion had been referred jointly to the New England delegates and a congressional committee appointed to confer with the Philadelphia merchants, who had also been requested by the Committee at Headquarters to divert some of the money earmarked for purchasing flour to the purchase of 1,000 tents. See Committee at Headquarters to the Philadelphia Merchants' Association, July 10; and Huntington to Washington, July 15, 1780.

The report of the New England delegates, which endorsed Washington's proposal and was written by James Lovell, was submitted on July 18. Congress thereupon

adopted the report's recommendations, pledging Continental reimbursement for expenses incurred by any subscribers who responded to this appeal and ordering that "the supreme executive powers" of the four New England states be requested to implement the plan. See *JCC*, 17:609, 640; and *PCC*, item 19, 6:345-46. See also Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, July 13, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Charles Pettit

Sir, Philada July 21. 1780

Congress have suspended Henry Hollingsworth Deputy Quarter Master General, as you will see by the Act of yesterday herewith enclosed.¹ It is said the Department wherein he has acted is important, and that it is necessary some Person should be appointed to transact the Business in that Department.

I am Sir, with Esteem & respect, your most obedt hbble servt,
S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Hollingsworth had been the target of criticism since early 1779, and in March 1780 he had responded in detail to the principal accusations he had heard. Nevertheless, the commissioners of accounts had charged him with "forgery and other frauds and abuses in the execution of his office," and these provided the foundation of the report of the Board of Treasury that led Congress on July 20 to order his suspension. See *JCC*, 16:286, 320, 17:647; and Greene, *Papers* (Showman), 3:229-33, 446-48.

Hollingsworth immediately protested Congress' action and requested an opportunity to be examined by the Board of Treasury, but the case dragged on in Philadelphia until August 15 when Congress referred the matter to officials in Maryland for investigation, and there it was subsequently drawn out two additional years. The Maryland Council referred Hollingsworth's "supposed forgery" to the Maryland attorney general on November 8, 1780, who placed it in the hands of Alexander Contee Hanson, a judge of the General Court, who on December 19 found the charges against Hollingsworth insufficient to sustain prosecution. But not until November 6, 1782, did Gov. Thomas Sim Lee return Hanson's opinion to Congress, which thereupon accepted Hanson's findings and finally dismissed the complaint against Hollingsworth. For references to this tangled case, see *JCC*, 17:685, 711, 728-30, 734, 742-43, 23:723n, 746-47; *PCC*, item 43, fols. 99-115, item 70, fols. 521-26, item 78, 12:55-75; and *Md. Archives*, 43:353.

Joseph Jones to James Hunter

Dear Sr. Phila. 21st July 1780

I beg leave once more to trouble you with two parcels the one for Mrs. Woodford the other for Mrs. Jones with a Letter for each of the Ladies. You will by Col Taliaferro or one of my people soon have an opportunity of sending them to Spring Hill. We have no further accounts yet from the French Fleet arrived at Newport. Graves we are informed is arrived at the Hook with six Ships of the line three

days after Ternay got to Newport. Not knowing the Strength of the French we are in doubt which has the superiority but if it be true what was reported here yesterday that Graves was put to Sea it is to be apprehended he thinks himself superior. Mr. Jenifer has not returned from Maryland or given me any account of the Certificate you desire information about, with respect to Mrs. Hunter. I am, Dr Sr., yr. most obed Sevt.

Jos. Jones

22d. Yesterday afternoon one of the Marq l Fayette's Aids came in with Letters to the President of Congress and the Minister confirming the arrival of the French Fleet, 8 Ships of the line and some Frigates.¹ The great Ships are 74 & 64. Graves's Fleet they had a brush with a few days before their arrival but little injury done except to One of the British 74 wch. falling behind on their Fleets tacking was for a while exposed to the fire of several of the French Ships. Graves's reinforcement consists of five ships 74 & 64. Abt. one thousand of the French Troops were landed being the weak and sickly on accot. of the Voyage.²

RC (ViU: Hunter-Garnett Papers).

¹ News of the arrival of the French fleet had first been presented in Congress on July 17, for which see Samuel Huntington to Washington, July 15, 1780, note 1.

² Jones also wrote a brief note to Philadelphia merchant Levi Hollingsworth on July 25 seeking immediate payment of an account due him since "the rise of exchange must occasion a considerable loss." Hollingsworth Collection, PHi.

James Lovell to Abigail Adams

July 21, 1780

Having this Eveng. recd. Letters from Mr. Adams of March 16 & 29,¹ I hope that you also, lovely Portia, have news immediately from his hand respecting his own health and his Family's at the same or a later date. Seing Dates from Doctr. Lee so late as April 3d I could not conceive but the inclosed² was for Mr *Samuel* Adams as I knew the hand writing of the Superscription to be that of his friend Arthur who I thought might in his Hurry make the Blunders of the Christian Name. I therefore opened it and have taken an Extract by the advice of S.A. I think you should not send it over the Water. It is not necessary. I see Mr. A is possessed of the hints in it.

Mr. Carnes calls on me. Be happy,

J L

RC (MHi: Adams Papers).

¹ These letters are in John Adams' Letterbook, Adams Family Papers, MHi.

² Which letter of Arthur Lee was "inclosed" has not been determined.

Connecticut Delegates to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, Philadelphia July 22d 1780

The Journals of Congress for June last are Printed and will be forwarded to your Excellency in the usual Channel together with such Copies as are ordered Immediately.

It is with Concern we observe the Exigences of the Public have been such as obliged our State to Issue large Emissions of Paper Bills which with what will Issue in Pursuance of the Resolutions of the 18th of March last may Endanger the Public Credit. The only Way to avoid this Evil is speedily to Draw in those Bills by Taxes and not Suffer them on any Account to Re-Issue.

Paper Money does it's Office when it goes out in Payment and ought to be among the People as a Medium of Trade no longer than to find it's Way into their Pockets, and like private Security should be destroyed when Returned into the Office it Issued from, This is doing Business in Sight of the People and Every Man who Pays his Tax knows he does it Discharge of much of his Public Debt. But to Re-Issue Bills taken in by Loans & Taxes Accumulates the Public Debt in a Way not open to the Inspection of the People. They see the Bills are not Redeemed and are told they never will be. The Credit of the State is Scrupled and Depreciation Ensues. The People loose their Confidence in Government, The Laws are Enervated, Military Operations Prevented, Justice Impeeded, Trade Embarrassed, the Morals of the People Corrupted, Men of Integrity in Office Abused and Resigning whilst Peculators Ride in Coaches. These Evils and the Sources from whence they arise, so lately Experienced all serve to Point out the Way to avoid them in future. The Design of Congress in Limiting the Amount of Circulating Bills within the United States will be Wholly Defeated by Emissions from Particular States unless their Amount is Limited within the Bounds and Issued in Lieu of the Quotas Assigned by Congress, and be in Fact drawn in before the General Currency Issues.

Congress have Established a new Regulation of the Quarter Master's Department,¹ it's now in the Press and will be Transmitted to your Excellency as Early as Possible, it is Expected this new arrangement of that Department will save great Expence to the Public.

We are with the greatest Respect, your Excellency's Most Humil
Sevt,

Roger Sherman

Benj Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). Written by Sherman and signed by Sherman and Benjamin Huntington.

¹ See John Armstrong to Horatio Gates, July 15, 1780, note 2.

William Churchill Houston to William Livingston

Sir

Maidenhead 22 July 1780

On the 15th inst Congress finished an Arrangement of the Quarter Master Department, by which the Officers are put upon Salaries, and the Department new-modelled. The Quarter Master General is continued. He is to appoint a Deputy in each State with the approbation of the Supreme Executive thereof. I hope Your Excellency has not lost sight of what you wrote some Time since, respecting Mr. Condict.¹ The Quarter Master General must be of the Line of the Army, but if Mr. Condict would undertake for the State in the civil Duties of the Office, it would give me great Pleasure, as he is a Man of the best Principles and purest Views. Hope you will immediately recommend him to General Greene. Mr. Furman who is in the Department now, and is superseded by the Arrangement, is a good Man, and perhaps General Greene would not wish he should be neglected. Whether he chooses to continue I cannot say, it may be well enough to have that ascertained. I thought it my Duty in Justice to Mr. Condict, and to your Desire to promote the publick good to request your Attention to this Matter and am Your Excellency's very obedt. Servt.

Wm Churchill Houston

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Livingston had recommended Silas Condict as quartermaster general. See Robert R. Livingston to William Livingston, March 20, 1780. See also Abraham Clark to Livingston, August 19, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to James Cogswell

Hond. Sir

Philadelphia July 22d. 1780

I have been favoured with your kind letter from Stamford, but the Multiplicity of business hath prevented me the pleasure of returning an answer until now.

Indeed the weight & burden of business is Continually encreasing & like to increase while the war continues.

Dispatches not only from all parts of the United States daily arrive but frequently from various powers & parts of Europe. We have lately receivd Intelligence that the United Netherlands with Denmark, Sweeden & the Empress of Russia at their head, have determind to maintain a Neutrallity & protect their Trade.¹ This is an important Stroke & all that America would wish for on the Subject, yet our enemies in New York feign to publish it as favourable for Great

Britain, to prevent Ill Impressions among them or for Some other purpose not more Honorable with regard to truth.

There Seems a Spirit rising in this part of the Country to exert themselves in the common cause greater than I have Seen for Some years. I hope very good Effects will flow from it, the Arival of the French Armament Seems to add yet more to the Animation.

The newspapers herewith enclosd will give you as late Intilligence as we have receivd from the Southward.

I have also the Satisfaction to Inform you great Harmony & Unanimity continues in Congress, Notwithstanding the many Embarassments & difficulties they have to go through; & hope that a kind Providence hitherto so Manifest in our favour, with firmness, patience & perseverance in the use of means in our power will Conduct these United States Safely through the Glorious contest.

I am, Sir, with much Esteem and regard yours most Sincerely,
Sam. Huntington

RC (PHi: Sprague Collection). Addressed: "The Revd. James Cogswell, at Windham, Connecticut."

¹ The Empress Catherine II of Russia had invited several countries, in March 1780, to join an armed league to protect the maritime rights of neutrals. See Richard B. Morris, *The Peacemakers: The Great Powers and American Independence* (New York: Harper & Row, 1965), pp. 165–72; and Isabel de Madariaga, *Britain, Russia, and the Armed Neutrality of 1780: Sir James Harris's Mission to St. Petersburg during the American Revolution* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962). For Congress' subsequent response to the declaration of Empress Catherine that eventually led to the formation of a League of Armed Neutrality, see Samuel Huntington to the marquis de Barbé-Marbois, October 7, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, Philadelphia 22 July 1780

I am honored with your Excellency's three Letters of the 10th Instant and the Papers to which they refer.¹

The Acts of Congress appointing Commissioners to settle Accounts in the several States & referred to in my Letter of the 18th of June extends to all public Accounts in any Department (if my Memory serves) and will be adequate to the Purposes you mention of settling Accounts in the Quarter Masters Department as well as the Commissarys and I hope a Commissioner will soon be ordered to Connecticut for that Purpose.

I am happy to find that the Act of Congress of the 19th of May respecting the ten Millions of Dollars to be paid into the Continental Treasury in thirty Days, was received by Deputy Governor Griswold,² and laid before the Assembly (in the Absence of your Excellency)

and by them referred to a Committee, of which Judge Sherman tells me he was one, and the necessary Orders taken thereon.

I have received official Intelligence, that all the States north of Virginia, except Delaware and Rhode Island, have adopted the Resolutions of the 18th of March, and by my last from Govr. Greene, he expected that State would adopt them in a few Days and the same is expected from Virginia.

I hope Connecticut will with the greatest Expedition in their Power call in the Quota of Continental Bills required of them, the sooner they are got out of Circulation and sunk the better.

Had all the States adopted the resolution of the 18th of March, and acted thereon with the Wisdom and Decision Connecticut has done, we should have been extricated out of our Embarrassments in a great Degree and almost insensibly.

We have no later Intelligence of Consequence from the southern Department than what you will receive in the Paper inclosed.

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of respect and Esteem, your Excellency's most obedt humble servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. Endorsed: "recd. 30th inst. Per Brown."

¹ For Trumbull's three July 10 letters to Huntington, which were read in Congress on July 18, see PCC, item 66, 2:63-74; Trumbull, *Papers* (MHS Colls.), 3:57-64; and JCC, 17:638.

² See Huntington to Certain States, June 29, 1780.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir

Sunday 22d July. 80

I called again the 30th time upon yr. Syringe-maker and he told me that he had "quite forgot all about it;" without even renewing his old Lye that *he would set to work upon the next day*. I blessed his Impudence, and thus have dropped the affair.

The Bearer you doubtless know—Doctr. Cochran. A Thought struck me from seing his Behavior to *the Family of Bethlehem*, particularly to *the Virgin*, that he is quite capable of gross anecdotes that may be depended on. There are easy Moments in which you may put Questions founded in a *Pride of your own Judgement* and without any Expectations of *ever having again* any thing to do with them. I wish to know all I can *before I quit*: An agreeable Plan is formed, an House only is wanting, when that is obtained we shall move. In the mean Time—*Tace* is the Parole of our Party. My newly arrived Colleagues are out of all Patience at the Situation in which they found

mat[ters] in these Lodgings.¹ I find there is still a serious thought of Majr. W—lk—r, tho' I believe he has not wrote a Line since he left the *odd Fancy* here.

I take for granted that you know at Head Quarters all that is *communicated* here. The *Report* of this day is that the Enemy's Ships have sailed from New York. If so, I should think that cowardly Villains of magnitude in that City, would be trying to purchase their Peace of us by giving our General the fullest Information of all Things going on there. I shall be particular in keeping any anecdotes you may send about P.D.² to myself. I think considering your State you had best *burn* this and all like it. Your Friend & humble Servt.

J. L.

RC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary War Documents).

¹ For his "Plan" to improve his lodgings, see Lovell to Elbridge Gerry, July 24, 1780.

² Not identified.

Medical Committee to Jonathan Potts

Sir,¹

Philada. July 22d 1780.

Your letter of this day I have laid before the medical comittee, and have it in charge from them to inclose you several resolutions passed by them and the resolution of Congress upon which they are founded.²

In behalf of the committee,

S. Holten Chairman

ENCLOSURE

The medical committee direct³ that D. Potts purveyor of the Hospitals in the middle district dispose of the money granted by Congress the 21st instant to his department as follows (viz.) Sixty thousand dollars for purchasing & laying in hospitals stores, such as, Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Rice or Barley; but the Committee do not conceive wine to be absolutely necessary therefore none is to be purchased at present; Twenty five thousand dollars is to be delivered to D. Craigie the Apothecary General, in order to enable him to pay of debts due from his department & to purchase some small necessary articles; And you are further directed to pay the wages due to the officers of your department to the first of April last; and to keep the remainder of the money on hand untill the further order of the committee, and make return of your doings as soon as may be.

Attest. S. Holten Chairman

Philada. July 22d 1780.

RC and enclosure (PHi: Potts Papers). Written and signed by Samuel Holten.

¹ Jonathan Potts, purveyor of the hospitals in the middle department, has been identified in these *Letters*, 1:316n.1.

² Potts' letter is not in PCC; and the "several resolutions" of the committee enclosed by Holten have not been identified.

³ For Congress' July 21 order appropriating \$200,000 "for the use of the hospitals in the middle district, to be applied as the Medical Committee shall direct," see *JCC*, 17:648.

Roger Sherman to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

Philadelphia July 22. 178[0]

Your Excellency's Several Letters to the President of Congress of the 10th Instant were received and publicly read.¹ No measures have Yet been taken by the Board of Treasury, for Sending Commissioners to Settle accounts in the Several States, which they are fully authorized to do by a late resolution of Congress. As I am at present a Member of that Board I Shall do every thing in my power to forward that Business, which has been too long delayed. Your Excellency's Letter of the 8th of June last was referred to a Committee who reported thereon the 6th of July. "That all the Crediters of these united States who have not been paid their just demands, Shall be intitled to recieve in the present money, to the full value of the Sums due to them respectively, at the time they ought to have been paid." When the report was taken up in Congress there was no objection to making just Allowance for the depreciation, but that it was Necessary to point out Some mode for the adjustment of the Sums due, and therefore it was recommitted—and will I suppose be again reported on very Soon.² Congress Seem disposed to do justice in every Case as far as is practicable.

Our affairs have been considerably retarded and Embarrassed for want of money, and for want of proper Arrangements of the Staff departments.

A New Arrangement of the Quarter Masters Department has lately been Established, which provides for the receiving, Safe keeping and transportation of the provisions and other Supplies to be purchased by the Several States, pursuant to the resolution of the 25th of February last, and for procuring other Supplies. All the officers Employed will be on Salary & not Commissions, issuing posts in the Country are to be discontinued, I believe it will be a means of Saving considerable expence if duly executed, tho' not So much as could be wished. New arrangements are also ordered for the commissary's and Medical departments, to be made by the Committee at Head Quarters, & reported to Congress.

We are Informed that Admiral Graves has lately arrived at New York with Six Ships of the Line from 60 to 80 Guns. General Washington writes that his arrival will make no alteration in his Plan of operations. We have had Accounts of the Arrival of the French Fleet at New port, on the 10th Instant, but no particulars, in what force or in what condition. We hear from New York, that one 74 Gun Ship of Graves's fleet was Sunk by the French fleet, and that the French fleet is much Shattered. The people in the Several States Seem to be animated to Vigorous exertions;³ A few months or weeks may be productive of very important events to this Country. May the Omnipotent disposer of all events overrule them for the best good of these States.

I understand that of late the Army have been well Supplied with provisions. I am Sorry that the State of Connecticut have had occasion to emit So large a Sum in Bills of Credit previous to their being furnished with the Bills prepared by order of Congress,⁴ but am Glad to hear that they have laid So large a Tax to be paid in the New Bills, I esteem that to be a very wise measure, to introduce the Bills into circulation with full credit, and ought to be imitated by all the other States. I am fully perswaded that no way can be devised, in our circumstances to Support the value of a paper currency but by taxing to the full amount of our expenditures, after having emitted a Sufficient Sum for a Medium of trade which is limited by the resolution of Congress to ten millions of dollars for the thirteen States, and if the particular States extend their emissions beyond their quotas of that Sum, it will in my opinion give a fatal blow to the Credit of the whole paper currency, and involve us in worse evils than we have heretofore experienced. Therefore I think that No Supposed necessity, or other consideration Whatsoever Should induce any State in the least degree to exceed the limit fixed by the united States by the resolution of the 18th of March last.

I am sensible that it was Necessary to make Some State emissions before those Bills were prepared, but then I think they Should be considered as part of their quotas of the ten Million dollars. The resources of this Country are great and may be drawn out in So equable a Manner by the Wisdom of the Legislatures of the Several States as fully to answer the exigencies of our affairs, without being very burthensome to the people. It may be necessary to run in debt for Some foreign articles, but I think not for any that are to be procured in this Country. I Shall return home by the middle of August So as to attend the circuit if relieved by the arrival of another Delegate. Mr. Root writes me that he dont expect to come 'till the beginning of October. I have wrote to General Wolcot⁵ but have not yet received an Answer.

The bank Set up here for the Supply of the Army I hope will be attended with Some good effect—they purchase flour delivered in

this City at £80 Pennsylvania currency, in continental Bills, per Ct, which at 60 for 1 is equal to 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ lawful money of Connecticut. Of the New Bills have been Sent to Connecticut about half their quota, to New Hampshire their whole quota, to Massachusetts including what is now Sent by Brown 540,000 dollars. The quota for N. York is done, but not Sent forward, the quota for New Jersey will be printed next. Eight States have Adopted the Measure, and we hear that Virginia has, which will make nine. Delaware has not yet, and we have No Account from N. Carolina. South Carolina is Not in a condition to do it at present.

Gates will be able to Collect such a force as to re-establish Civil Government there.

I am with great respect and Esteem, Your Excellency's Obedient
humble Servant, Roger Sherman

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers); Tr (DLC: Force Papers). RC damaged; missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ See Samuel Huntington to Trumbull, this date.

² Governor Trumbull's June 8 letter, which is the object of Sherman's concern, was read in Congress on June 15 and referred to a committee of Oliver Ellsworth, James Henry, and Thomas McKean. That committee rendered its report on July 6, which was considered on July 13 and referred to a new committee chaired by Sherman.

Despite Sherman's clear interest in securing settlement of the accounts of Continental creditors in Connecticut, the committee did not report until August 24. Two days later Congress approved resolves affirming that Continental suppliers were entitled to receive "the just value of the sums due to them. . . compared with specie at the time the money became due" and providing a local means of settling accounts. See *JCC*, 17:515, 591, 774, 784–86; *PCC*, item 66, 2:59–62; and Trumbull, *Papers* (MHS Colls.), 2:50–53.

³ This same view was expressed by Jared Ingersoll the following day in a brief letter to William Temple Franklin at Paris, whose assistance was being solicited for the care of books Ingersoll had left behind him in England in 1776. "The French Fleet arrived at Newport the 10th Inst," Ingersoll noted in conclusion. "Admiral Greaves is also at New York, without the Hook. We are making all possible preparations for an Attempt against that place—I expect we shall have a very vigorous Campaign." Benjamin Franklin Papers, PPAmP.

⁴ See Connecticut Delegates to Trumbull, this date.

⁵ Not found.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir, In committee of Congress, Preakniss, July 23d, 1780

We have the honor to inclose your Excellency copy of a letter from the General officers to us, No. 1, and copy of their memorial to Congress, No. 2, which we received on the 20th instant.¹ It is certain that the fortitude and perseverance with which the officers and sol-

diers of the Army have encountered the various hardships and difficulties they have been exposed to, and the faithful and eminent services rendered their Country in the course of the present contest, fully entitle them to her gratitude, has ample justice, and loudly calls for the earliest decision of her supreme council, on the subject matter of their memorial.

The inclosed No. 3, is copy of a letter from the commander in chief, to the quarter master general—No 4 is copy of his letter to us in consequence of the former—No. 5 and 6, are returns which accompanied it—No. 7, is copy of our letter in answer to his, No. 8 of his reply.²

On a matter so important as that which is the principle object of these papers, we earnestly intreat to have the sense of Congress explicitly stated, and speedily conveyed to us. The committee were led to decide for a Military coercion in procuring carriages, if other means of obtaining them should prove ineffectual, because they conceived it a self evident proposition, that ample, but distant supplies of provision for such an Army as you have called into the field, without adequate means of transportation, must render every operation abortive, increase the distress of the Country, and call in question the wisdom of the directing council of the Empire.

Governor Livingston, with whom we have conversed since our last to Congress, has explained the quotation we gave from his letter respecting the "Military resources of the State"—he meant only to convey, that no *new* powers had been conferred on any person to call them out, but assured us that by former acts of the legislature, he is authorized, with his council to draw forth the Militia on the requisition of Congress, or General Washington.

The honorable President Weare, in letters of the 1st, 2, and 6th, which we received on the 21st instant, advises us that he has "ocason to expect the major part at least" of the troops to recruit their line "will rendezvous in the southern extremes of the State on the 4th of July." That "the Militia are ordered to be at the same places on the 12th, on their way to Camp." That "the quota of beef allotted to the State, for July, will be ready." That "the first months allotment of rum is ready." That "persons are employed to purchase the 150 horses required of them, and thinks it probable they will be ready in a few days." That "the legislature of the state have *fully* empowered the President with the committee of safety to call forth *all* and *every* resource of the State when wanted, in the recess of the general court, to whom we are to apply for future aid." In his letter of the 6th, he observes "upwards of one hundred recruits for the Continental Army had marched forward on the preceeding Tuesday & Wednesday from Kingston, and by the best information, they were equally forward in the Counties of Hillsborough and Cheshire."³

His Excellency the Governor of Maryland's information is also full,

and greatly satisfactory, as his letter is short, we deem it unnecessary to analyze it, and therefore transmit a copy, No. 9.⁴

We have this day in concurrence with the commander in chief, annexed the regiment commanded by Colo. Henry Jackson to the Massachusetts line—that of which Samuel B Webb Esqr is colonel we have also annexed to the Connecticut line. Copies of our resolutions are inclosed, No 10 and 11.⁵

We wish to be favoured with copies of the Journals of Congress as far down as they are printed. We have the honor to be, With great respect and esteem, Your Excellency's Most obedient huml. Serv,

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews, Peabody, and Schuyler. Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Letter from Comee. at head Qrs. July 23. 1780. Read 28. With enclosed N 1. Letter from the genl Officers. 2. Meml. genl Officers to Congress. 3. Genl Washington to genl Greene July 19. 4. Genl Greene to Comee. July 20. 5. Return of teams for transportation from Trenton to Dobb's ferry. 6. do. Wt. of Military stores for siege NY for 60 days. 7. Comee to Gen Greene July 21. 8. genl Greene to Comee. July 21. 9. Gov Lee to Comee. July 10. 10. Comee's resoln. for annexing Jackson's reg to Massachusetts line. 11. do. for annexing Webb's to Connecticut line."

¹ The "memorial" of the general officers to Congress was an informational copy forwarded by the committee. The petition itself was presented to Congress by Gen. Alexander McDougall and taken into consideration on August 3, for which see Huntington to McDougall, August 13, 1780.

² See the committee's letters to Nathanael Greene, July 16 and 21; and to Huntington, July 18, 1780.

³ For the receipt of these letters, see the committee's second letter to Huntington, July 21, 1780. For their reply, see the following entry, note 2.

⁴ See the following entry, note 2.

⁵ The committee's resolutions of this day, enclosures "No 10 and 11," were in response to acts of the Massachusetts and Connecticut legislatures requesting that additional corps in those states be integrated into the Continental Line. The resolution adopted in response to President Jeremiah Powell's letter of May 4 is as follows: "Resolved, By, and with the advise of the Commander in Chief, that the regiment commanded by Colo. Henry Jackson, one of the additional corps, be and is hereby annexed to the Massachusetts line in the continental Army, and shall, henceforth, be considered and called the sixteenth regiment in the Massachusetts line of Continental troops, provided that Nothing therein contain'd shall be considered, or taken to be, a credit to the State of Massachusetts Bay, for more of the nonCommission'd Officers and soldiers than were citizens of that state at the time of their engagement in said Corps." PCC, item 39, 1:162–63.

Enclosure no. 11, adopted in response to a Connecticut act of May 2 requesting the annexation of Samuel B. Webb's Continental regiment to "the line of this State," reads: "By and with the advise of the Commander in Chief, that the regiment whereof Samuel B. Webb Esqr. is Colonel, now Commanded by Lieut Colo. Ebenezer Huntington, and one of the additional corps, be, and is hereby annexed to the Connecticut line in the Continental Army, and shall henceforth be considered and Called the [Ninth] Regiment in the Connecticut line of Continental troops, provided that nothing herein contained shall be Consider'd or taken to be a Credit to the State of Connecticut for

more of the nonCommissioned Officers and soldiers than were Citizens of that state at the time of their engagement in the said Corps." Ibid., fols. 164-65.

Committee at Headquarters to Thomas Jefferson

Sir In Com[mittee] of Congress Preakness, July 23d 1780
We were honored with Your Excellency's favor of the 2d Instant on the 21st.¹

The cantonments of the Army In this quarter added to the Extreme badness of the Crops last season has so totally exhausted the Country of grain for forrage that the army is in great distress on this Account, the transportation of the necessary stores delayed, and every Embarrassment Increased. We have therefore to Intreat that the moment the Impediments to the transportation from Your state to the head of Elk are removed, your Excellency will please to direct the proper Officers to lose no time in Expediting to the army as much grain as can possibly be spared together with the bacon, and any other provisions which you may have as a surplus of what is necessary for the Southern Army.

Whether all or any of the five thousand troops raising by your state will be ordered hence, will probably depend on the State in which our affairs may be to the Southward in the Course of next month. The Commander In chief will advise you on that subject.²

We have the honor to be with Great respect Your Excellency's Most Obedient & most Huml servts,

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

N. Peabody

FC (DNA; PCC, item 39). In the hand of Philip Schuyler. Endorsed by Benjamin Brown: "To Thomas Jefferson Esqr. in answer to his letter of the 2d Inst. July 23. 1780. No. 13."

¹ The Virginia governor's July 2 letter is in Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:476. See also his letters of the same date to Huntington and to Washington, *ibid.*, pp. 477-78.

² Besides this letter to the Virginia governor and the following letter to William Livingston of New Jersey, the committee wrote this day to seven other state executives north of Virginia (excepting Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania), acknowledging the receipt of letters concerning measures taken in the states in response to the committee's requisitions and appeals. See PCC, item 39, 3:101-8, 113-16, 119-22. In most instances the committee expressed satisfaction with the steps taken, but stressed the importance of the punctual delivery of supplies and the need to fill troop quotas. To Gov. Thomas Sim Lee of Maryland, however, the committee affirmed that "an entire confidence is established, & will continue to subsist between the executive Authy. of your State & this Committee. Be Assured, sir, we shall on our part most sedulously cultivate it."

A second brief letter of acknowledgement to Meshech Weare of New Hampshire dated July 25 is at fol. 123, *ibid*.

Committee at Headquarters to William Livingston

Sir In Committee of Congress Camp, Preakness July 23. 1780

In your Excellency's letter of the 28th ulto. informing us of what had been done by the Legislature of your State,¹ Among other acts therein enumerated is one for procuring the Teams required, not only those to be annexed to the Army, but also, such others as were necessary for the transportation service. We were in hopes those acts would have been as vigorously carried into execution, as the exigency of our affairs at present demanded, but on a late application made by the Quarter Master General, in consequence of this Law, for procuring a number of teams on a very urgent occasion, his utmost efforts to this end were defeated. We think it our duty to make this communication to your Excellency as the supreme executive authority of this State, that an enquiry may speedily be made into the cause of the failure. Your Excellency will at once see the pernicious consequences resulting from such neglect, without any Comment on our part, and we flatter ourselves that an enquiry will be productive of such beneficial consequences, as to prevent the like embarrassments in future.²

The Garrison at West Point is rapidly increasing and must soon be in want of flour, unless the Q M Genl. can be immediately furnished with the means of transporting the flour from Sussex County to Warwick in the state of New York, where teams will be ready to forward it to West Point.

We have the honor to be, with great respect, Your Excellency's
Most Obt. Hble servts,

Ph. Schuyler

Jno Mathews

Nathl. Peabody

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Mathews, Peabody, and Schuyler.

¹ For a copy of Livingston's June 28 letter to the committee, see PCC, item 11, fol. 81.

² For a measure of the difficulty in transporting supplies in New Jersey, see the committee's July 19 letter to Azariah Dunham. See also Samuel Huntington to Moore Furman, July 25; and Committee at Headquarters to Furman, July 30, 1780.

Governor Livingston's July 26 reply to the committee is in PCC, item 39, 3:215-17.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia July 23. 1780

Your two Letters of the 21st Instant together with the foreign Despatches to which they refer are just come to hand by Messenger Misner.¹ Enclosed is a Copy of the one agreeable to your Request.²

Your several Letters of the 19th & 23d of June and 13th of July have been duly received, and the Despatches which accompanied them for the different States immediately forwarded; the receipt of some of them I believe hath not been before acknowledged.³

Congress have not yet given any Answer on the Subject you have mentioned respecting the Opening Letters directed to them.

I have the Honor to be with the highest Esteem & respect, Gentlemen, your most obed hbble servant,

Sam Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ These were read in Congress on July 24, although Secretary Thomson misread the date on the second letter and recorded it as "One of the 20" rather than of the 21st. See *JCC*, 17:654.

² See the postscript to the committee's second letter of July 21.

³ Huntington's last previous letter to the committee is dated June 19, 1780. The committee's letters to Huntington of June 19 and July 13 were laid before Congress on June 22 and July 17 respectively. Huntington's third reference is apparently to the letter to Congress of June 23 from Nathaniel Peabody, which was read on June 26. See *JCC*, 17:544, 558, 637.

Samuel Huntington to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Sir,

Philadelphia July 23. 1780

I am favored with your Letter of the 9th Instant and Papers to which it refers.¹

The Proceedings of the Board of Treasury were before unknown to me.

The Delegates from Connecticut will use their Endeavors to have one or more Commissioners immediately sent into Connecticut agreeable to the late Act of Congress, to settle your Accounts, and such others as may be settled in that Quarter.² I should have been happy had Time permitted to have obtained an Act of Congress, that you might have received certain Information by Brown. As soon as any thing is done on the Subject you shall have the earliest Notice.

I am Sir with Esteem & regard, your most obedt servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (James S. Copley Library, La Jolla, Calif., 1974). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Huntington apparently considered this a personal letter; it is not in PCC, and its receipt is not mentioned in the journals.

² For Congress' appointment of additional commissioners of accounts to facilitate the settlement of long outstanding accounts such as those of Wadsworth, see Oliver Ellsworth to Wadsworth, June 13, note 1; Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, June 18, 1780, note 2; and *JCC*, 17:682.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Sir, Philadelphia July 24th. 1780

I have the honour to acknowledge, the receipt of your Excellencys letters, of the 11th Instant, this day. There is official accounts that Admiral Graves & Arburthnott, with Twenty one Ships of war, saild from Sandy Hook, making their Course S. E. by S, untill they were out of sight, their destination unknown, various are the Conjectures, some suppose Rhode Island, others that they are gone, in quest of the reinforcements expected from France.¹

Since my arival at this place, I have spent a considerable part of my leisure time (of which I have plenty) in making my self acquainted, with the Institution, of the several Boards as ordered, by Congress, their several modes of doing business, the several Chambers of Accompts, and their method, together with the Conduct, of all persons imployed, in publick business under the immediate direction of either, of the Boards. Least I should be thought, either imprudent, or indelicate, I must omit entering into particulars, on this subject, But the want, of decision is evident, and often times in matters of great National concern; at this critical conjuncture, and it too evident, that a general langor hath spread it self over all our publick transactions.

Our Finances are in a most deplorable situation, and but little attention, paid in order to put them upon a more respectable footing. The task being difficult and the Complicated obstructions that always stare us in the face at first view, Appears to me to be the reason, that no more attention is paid to so great a National Concern, I wish the time may not be near, when the most fatal consequences will overtake us, nearly for want of money for Publick purposes, I wish you not to construe this letter, to be wrote by dictates of fear. I assure it is not, but with that truth and Sincerity that the servant of a free people ought to speak.

I have also paid attention to all our foreign intelligence, and upon the most favourable construction, I cannot se the least probability, of a peace taking place, unless some Capital stroke, can be struck this Campaign, in this Quarter. It is probable that Great Britain will

purpose a Truce with the several States, for a limited time, the propriety of Conceding to the measure, I must leave you to Judge, It appears the victory the Britons obtained at Savannah last fall, hath much revived, their spirits in Europe. The Effects the reduction of Charlestown will have I must submit to your better Judgment.

I should be happy, If a more pleasant scene presented itself to my view, than prosecuting the present Campaign, and making preparation for the next, in our exhausted situation, but as through that door at present is all our hope, of political Salvation, I hope the United efforts of America joyn'd heart & hand in this Common cause (in a more zealous manner then they have been of late) will shew to the world that no difficulties are insurmountable when fired by that noble Ardor that burns in the breast of every true American.

I have the Honour to be your Excellency most obedient Humble
Servant,
E. Cornell

NB. The fleet mention'd Sailed on Thursday last.

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ For British plans to attack the French forces at Newport, see William B. Willcox, *Portrait of a General. Sir Henry Clinton in the War of Independence* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1964), pp. 326-37.

James Lovell to Elbridge Gerry

Sir July 24th. 1780

A very safe Oppertunity now offering I cannot allow myself to be governed by the Ceremony of consulting my Colleagues afresh on the Propriety of communicating all which the Minister told Congress last Saturday. Indeed I let the Chevalier himself know that I shd. not make a Secret of any thing which could tend to invigorate the Measures of the States. I need not be minute. The Sum & Substance was that what Ships & Troops are arrived form only a Division of what is intended for Cooperation—that we may daily expect a second—and that if Britain chuses to follow the Scene will be continued. France & Spain being superior in Europe are determined to be so in America if they send every Ship they have swimming. The Chevalier de la Luzerne is more diffident about elevating our Expectations than the ministry of France appear to be, they make no Ifs & Ands of the Councils.

I wish you would converse with Messrs. Cushing and Danielson about a Point of Delicacy that most certainly ought to be settled. The first Letter which we recd. from those Gentlemen as a Committee to correspond with us has never been acknowledged;¹ and we can not apologize for ourselves without exposing the C——ss. Read

the Resolve² that passed concerning Warrants to be drawn by the Govr. & Council of Virginia on the Deputy Paymaster there, and then judge whether we were not entitled to suppose we should not be two days without Ability to inclose to the Gentlemen an answer to the main Part of their Letter. You see a motion of ours referred to the Treasury on the 23d of June.³ We had made several attempts before that and upon one Objection and another consented to take back our Motions to amend them. Every Body seemed willing to do what was necessary yet nothing could be done, till at length I determined the Books should speak for us and would yet again take back the motion. To be plain I suspect the money which was in E. Hancock's Hand has been used by the Treasury in their Necessities tho it was the same as taking it out of the Pockets of the Guards in Mass. & other Soldiers there.

I had a few Lines from Mr. Izard dated the 12th at Rh Island⁴—Arthur Lee is behind still. Some of his anxious friends seem to think he is in danger of being assassinated by some of his private Enemies there, but I think his detention is quite natural⁵—The Alliance having been employed in some jobbing Expedition cannot find its prize money and the Sailors will not come without it is first paid down to them. We have nothing material from the Southward, nor any Letters from Mr. Jay more than you saw, if I recollect right.

I was just going to close, without mentioning to you a Matter that will want yr. Influence—perhaps to make the Propriety of it quite manifest. We are about to live together on the following Plan. Col. Pickering & Lady consent to take the Trouble of us upon *our paying the extra Rent* of a larger House than what they have, whenever we can find one, *furnishing each one his own Chamber*, and depending on him to charge us *the most moderate Board in his Power*. He is making Purchases at his Leisure for us so as to take every Advantage. Neither he or we doubt but the same we pay now will fully suffice and have twenty times more Comfort & Reputation annexed to it. But if it does not We cannot go on as at present you must see that it is a Situation most inconvenient, improper and even dangerous. We know not before when we are to convene from one Meal to another. A Frenchman may bring two or three Ship Captains with him to Breakfast or dinner, a Rakish Speculator may have his Like at Supper when both Danger & Indecency may mix, or a young Blood of an Officer may whip down his Dinner, and then rise and whistle or sing across the Room till we have done; and all then together may be cursing daily the dining-Time of Congress. Yrs. J L.

RC (James S. Copley Library, La Jolla, Calif., 1986)

¹ See the Massachusetts Delegates to Thomas Cushing and Timothy Danielson, July 25, 1780.

² Lovell noted the following citation to the "resolve" in the margin: "May 22d 1777, page 196." See JCC, 8:377.

³ That is, to authorize Massachusetts to draw on the Continental paymaster in that state, Ebenezer Hancock. *JCC*, 17:555.

⁴ Ralph Izard, who was returning from Europe after being recalled as minister to Tuscany, had forwarded dispatches from Europe with a July 12, 1780, letter to Lovell, which is in *NjMoHP*. He arrived in Philadelphia by August 1.

⁵ For the bizarre considerations that led Arthur Lee to delay his return to America, see Louis W. Potts, *Arthur Lee. A Virtuous Revolutionary* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981), pp. 241-42; and Gerard W. Gawalt, ed. and trans., *John Paul Jones' Memoir of the American Revolution* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1979), pp. 51-53.

Thomas McKean to Caesar Rodney

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia. July 24th. 1780.

You will herewith receive the Votes & Laws of this State passed during the last Sitting of the General Assembly, which are transmitted thro' me by the President and Supreme Executive Council to you.¹ It is wished that the Votes & Laws of each State could be sent thro' the like Channel to the other States; this would conduce to a uniformity of proceedings and to the ease & improvement [of] legislation throughout the United States.

The public duty I am obliged to perform is too much for me, and as our State affords me no relief in Congress I shall be obliged to decline the Delegation. The truth is, should my health & strength hold out, my finances will not; while I continue in the station I will support the Rank of a Deputy of the State, and this I find so expensive in these times that without some support from the Government I cannot endure it much longer. I have not received a farthing since the first of January 1779, and I am not a single day out of Congress unless when attending some court of Justice, so that I cannot attend in the least to my private affairs, nor to the wants of my family; however I will endeavor to persevere until the General Assembly meet again, especially as the difficulties & dangers we have had to encounter, owing to our change of system for the support of the war by taxes & loans, are not yet over. For God's sake exert yourself in enforcing the collection & payment of the public taxes, or we may yet be ruined; if we had but money we could finish the war in all probability the present campaign, notwithstanding the loss of South Carolina.

A fleet of eight sail of the Line, besides several frigates & armed transports, with 5,000 troops on board, are safely arrived at Rhode Island from France, sent for our assistance by our great and good Ally, whom God protect. This fleet is superior to that under Admirals Graves & Arbuthnot, notwithstanding what you may have seen or heard to the [con]trary. Be that as it may, believe me we shall be *vastly superior* to the Enemy on this Continent very soon. Keep this

hint to yourself, as you love your Country; verbum sat sapienti.² The Tories will propagate, and, I will suppose, do believe the contrary; I hope they will gain credit for a time. Notwithstanding the res ardue domi,³ and appearances abroad you see I have some consolation in being a member of Congress; and if I had not now and then these grateful animating cordials yet I [will] not quit the Helm in the midst of a storm.

I cannot conclude without informing you, that Delaware at present stands high in the Opinion of Congress, and that if they had revised and altered the tender law, and adopted the plan of discharging the national debt of the 18th of March last (for which omissions they are alone censured) they would have stood higher than any State in the Union.

Please to present my compliments to Chief Justice Killen, & your Brother. I am, dear Sir, Your most obedient humble servant,

Tho M:Kean

P.S. When you see Mr. Dickinson, be so kind as to remember me affectionately to him.

RC (NN: Miscellaneous Manuscripts).

¹ McKean probably enclosed a copy of the just published, *Laws Enacted in the Third Sitting of the Fourth General Assembly, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania . . .* (Philadelphia: John Dunlap, 1780).

² A word to the wise is sufficient.

³ Difficulties at home.

John Armstrong, Sr., to John Davis

Sir,

Philada. 25th July 1780

I have recd. your favour, and think it not improper you shou'd be in town at the time you mention—but inform you that Congress have yet received no answer from General Green whether he accepts the Office under the New Regulation or not. We Suppose he will, & if so he must immediately nominate deputies for the approbation of the Supreme Council in every State. Your friend Mitchel I presume is soliciting,¹ having told me he wou'd Serve without any regard to pay. This day Mr. Charles Pettit was Chosen D. Qr. G. of these, there is to be but One.

The French Fleet & transports Arived at R. Island on the 12th Inst. consisting of Seven Ships of the line, a Bumbketch & three Frigates with five thousand infantry Near the Same day Arived. Adinl. Graves at N. York with Six Ships of the Line, which together with the former Naval force, gives him at present a Superiority. On last Thursday he Sailed with 21 Ships of force from the Hooke, but whether to attack our Allies, or to the West Indies we cannot tell.

We are not without reason to expect a farther reinforcement and Soon, but this you must take as private Opinion.² Inclosed is a letter to Coll. Watt &c.³ of which if you think there may be any necessity on our Side the Hills you will please to take off a Copy for Coll Gibson & Coll. Buchanan. Seal the letter, and Send it off with what dispatch you can. I can neither write Mrs. Armstrong nor Coll MaGaw as I had intended by the present conveyance. Genl. Wayne at a Block House of the Enemy near Fort Lee, has been repulsed with the loss of about 70 of our line Killed & wounded. The Enemy were underground So that our Troops cou'd not get at them. This I fear was a wanton exertion of bravery.⁴ He got a parcel of Cattle & Some Tories—it's said the Cattle was the Object of his going out, but attacked the other on his return.

I am Sir, your resepectful, humbl. Servt. John Armstrong

[P.S.] Coll. Blain is at Camp.

RC (DLC: Davis Papers).

¹ That is, Col. John Mitchell, deputy quartermaster general.

² Armstrong also wrote a brief letter this day to Horatio Gates relating this same intelligence regarding the French forces at Newport and Admiral Graves' arrival at New York. Gates Papers, NHi.

³ Not found.

⁴ For Anthony Wayne's unsuccessful attack on the blockhouse "near Fort Lee," see Freeman, *Washington*, 5:184.

John Hanson to Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Dear sir,

Philadelphia July 25th. 1780

I am favoured with yours of the 19th and am much obliged to you for the information it Contains. I have received of Mr McCarty the money you drew for, which Shall be Sent by a Safe hand in a Short time. Should it be in my power to render that Gentleman Any Service in the affair you mention be assured I Shall do it with pleasure.

We have official Accounts of the Arival of the french fleet at Rhode Island, on the 10th Instant Eight Ships of the line and Several frigates with 5000 land forces. I wish we were ready for Co operation. Re-inforcements Come in very Slowly, every State greatly deficient in their Quotas of men, much therefore must depend upon the Militia of the New England, New York, Jersey, and Pensylvania States. We are told by the Delegates from those States, that men will not be wanting. I wish it may turn out so. Our Magnanimous Ally is making most noble Exertions in our favour, and it will be degrading indeed Should we fail in doing our part. The want of money is very Embarrassing, and unless the Treasury is Speedily Supplied, it will be very difficult to put our army in motion, and keep up the necessary

Supplies of provisions. Of the one million two hundred and odd thousand Dollrs. required of Maryland, 200,000 only has been Sent in, And the other States are equally Deficient. So that you will readily guess at the State of the Continental Treasury. There has been lately an embarkation of Troops at New York, and a fleet of Several Ships of War, and other Vessels, to the Amount of Sixty one or two, Sailed from the Hook Wednesday last, Steering as far as they Could be Seen, about a South East Course. Various are the Conjectures respecting their destination, some are of opinion they are gone to the West Indias, to reinforce Admiral Rodney, who it is reported has lately met with a Severe drubbing from the Combined fleets, haveing lost four Ships in the engagement, a 74 Sunk and three taken, and the rest drove into St Lucia, Some in a Shattered Condition. Others are of opinion (and I think with greater probability) that their object is Rhode Island. Their Superiority at Sea, and the number of Troops they may Spare from New York for so Short an Expedition, may induce them to attempt Something before the french fleet and Army Can be reinforced. A few days will Clear up our Doubts, when you Shall hear further from, Dr sir (with Compliments to Mr Carroll and the Ladies) your most Obedient Servant, John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Carroll Papers).

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir

Philadelphia July 25th 1780

I am favoured with yours by the last post. Be pleased to present my Compliments to Mrs Lee, and tell her her Commands Shall be Executed—tho the best Kind of Chariots was made a month or Six weeks ago, for £150 hard money, the price is now from 200 to 220. If you are willing to give this price be pleased to let me Know and I will engage one of the best Kind immediately, and you may probably get it by the middle or last of September. There is a Second hand Coach to be Sold for £200 hard. I understand it has run near Six years. I have examined it, the wheels are allmost new and the Harnass altogether so, the Body is very good, And every part of the Carriage appears to be Strong and in good order. The lining is a green Silk Damask. The Cushings are a good deal worn, but the man will engage to furnish new ones of the same, with the lining, it Apepars to be rather heavy, And the Shape of the Body not altogether in the modern tast, tho' it looks well, being genteely painted. But I would rather advise your having a new one made or a new Chariot, rather than Purchase this. You will then be Sure of a good one and Agreeable

to your own fancy. You will let me hear from you on the Subject by the next post. The sooner the better as things are Still rising.

There was An Embarkation of Troops from New York last week, and a fleet of Ships of war and other vessels amountg to 61 or 62 Sailed from the hook Wednesday last, Steering as far as they Could be seen, about a South East Course. Various are the Conjectures respecting their destination. Some are of opinion they are gone to the West Indias to reinforce Admiral Rodney, who it is Said has lately met with a severe drubing by the Combined fleets haveing lost 4 Ships. A 74 Sunk and three taken, and the rest drove into St. Lucia, Some in a Shatered Condition, others are of opinion (which I think the most probable) that their object is Rhode Island. The Superiority they have at present in Shiping and the number of Troops they may Spare from New York for so Short an Expedition may induce them to attempt Something before the french fleet and Army there Can be reinforced. A few days will Clear up our Doubts.

With great esteem and respect, I am Dear sir, Your most hble
Servt,
John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

John Henry to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadela. July 25. 1780.

I had the honour of your Excellys. favour by the last post.¹ All the influence that I have shall be exerted in favour of the Gentleman recommended in your Letter, tho at present I see very little prospect of an appointment of that sort taking place, if it should you may rely that my attention shall not be wanting.

The Acts of the General Assembly have been received, and we shall have it in our power in a few Days to send one half of them by Mr. Laurens to Europe. The remainder we shall forward by some other opportunity.²

The English Fleet sailed from New York on Wednesday last at 4 oClock in the afternoon; the whole consisted of sixty sail. Among them was twenty one ships of War, of what force the intelligence does not say. Light Troops it is said are on board; what Number is very doubtful. The conjectures respecting their destination are very various. One is, and it comes from New York, that an action has taken place in the West Indies in which the English have lost one 74 sunk in the Action and three of lesser force taken, and that the remainder of the Fleet is blocked up in St. Lucia and that this Fleet has sailed to their assistance. A Nother report is that they have sailed for Rhode Island, but both can be only conjecture.

The French Fleet consists of eight sail of the line, three Frigates and two bomb ketches commanded by Mr. Terney. The Land forces amount to five thousand; fifteen hundred of them are at present unfit for Duty but will be able in three weeks to join their Regiments.

Mr. J. Adams in his Letter of 23 March observes that the Committee and other public meetings in England are likely to give Administration much trouble.³ He speaks of a Congress among them and hopes they will soon have the powers of one. He is not particular on this subject. He dwells much on the late vote in the House of Commons abolishing the board of Trade as to America, which is a tacit declaration of the Sense of the Nation and is so received by the World, that America is lost forever. There was a Majority of eight on the vote, for the affirmative.

Give my Compts. to Mrs. Lee and believe me to be with Sincerity & the most perfect Attachment, Yrs. J. Henry.

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ Not identified; but from Henry's description it is clear that it was not the July 19 letter cited in the following note.

² The Maryland Assembly had adopted an act "empowering the Treasurer of the Western Shore to draw and sell Bills of Exchange" which would be negotiated in Europe, and the council had instructed its delegates on July 19 to send 12 copies of the act to persons in France and Great Britain "as you may think proper . . . in Order that those who may be affected by the said Act, may have Sufficient Notice thereof." *Md Archives*, 43:223.

³ This letter is in PCC, item 84, 1:345-48; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:568-70. It was read in Congress July 24. *JCC*, 17:654.

Samuel Huntington to Moore Furman

Sir, Philadelphia July 25. 1780

By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 24th Instant you are authorized to receive from the State Commissaries Such Quantities of Forage out of the Supplies purchased for the United States as may enable you to forward the Transportation of public Stores &c until a Deputy Quarter Master Genl be appointed for the State of New Jersey lest the public Service be impeded for want of such an Officer.¹

I am with much respect, your obedt hbble servt.

Sam. Huntington, Presidt.

RC (NjP: Atkinson Collection). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ In a July 12 letter to assistant quartermaster general Charles Pettit, Furman, a deputy quartermaster in New Jersey, had explained that he was about to face a transportation crisis for want of forage, which would endanger the delivery of vital supplies to the Continental Army. The letter had been sent to the Board of War, and in turn forwarded to Congress, which referred it to committee on July 19. The committee's recommendations, adopted on the 24th, authorized Furman to begin drawing forage

from stocks already collected in New Jersey and directed quartermaster general Nathanael Greene immediately to appoint a deputy quartermaster, with the approval of Gov. William Livingston, to implement effective forage collection measures in keeping with new regulations adopted on July 15 for reforming the quartermaster department. See *JCC*, 17:615-35, 643, 653, 655-56; *PCC*, item 19, 2:361-66; and Huntington to Nathanael Greene, July 26, 1780. See also Committee at Headquarters to Greene, July 21, and to Furman, July 30, 1780.

Huntington also sent a copy of the "enclosed Act" to New Jersey governor William Livingston on July 26, requesting him "to give Orders to the State Commissaries to deliver to Mr. Furman such Quantities of the public Forage as may be necessary for the Purposes therein mentioned." William Livingston Papers, NN. The same resolve was sent to Nathanael Greene under cover of a brief letter from the Committee at Headquarters of August 1. *PCC*, item 11, fol. 253.

Samuel Huntington to Charles Pettit

Sir, Philadelphia July 25. 1780

I have the Pleasure to inform you that Congress have been pleased unanimously to elect you, Assistant Quarter Master General under the new Arrangement.¹ A Copy of your Appointment is herewith enclosed.

While I lament the Necessity of making any new Regulations in the Quarter Masters Department at this critical Conjunction,² I have the fullest Confidence that the Principals in that Department will not be wanting in their greatest Exertions, that the same may be conducted in the best Manner, and with the greatest possible Economy, which is so essentially necessary in our present Circumstances.³

I am Sir, with Esteem & respect, your most obedt servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (CSmH: HM 39002). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ "Under the new Arrangement;" Pettit's first duty as assistant quartermaster general was "to reside near Congress." See *JCC*, 17:618, 663, 665.

² The "New Regulations" were those adopted by Congress on July 15. *JCC*, 17:615-35.

³ Pettit's August 9 letter to Huntington accepting this appointment is in *PCC*, item 192, fols. 333-36, but the document fails to reflect the difficulty he had in reaching this decision. Indeed, Pettit initially decided to decline the post, which he explained in a lengthy letter dated August 8 whose first page is nearly identical to the August 9 letter. But he apparently decided that he could not risk alienating Congress by refusing their appointment, and consequently endorsed the former letter "not sent," while concluding the latter with a request for clarification concerning what he would be furnished at public expense in regard to "Clerk-hire, Office-rent, Stationary, and other expences incident to the Station assigned me." The August 8, 1780, letter is in the Continental Congress Miscellany, DLC.

Pettit's query concerning his expenses was referred to a committee on August 10, whose recommendations to allow him "one or more clerks, as the nature of the service may require, and the Board of War shall approve," was adopted on August 15. This decision was reported to him in a letter from Huntington of August 16. See *JCC*, 17:715, 735; and *PCC*, item 15, fol. 79.

Massachusetts Delegates to Thomas Cushing and Timothy Danielson

Gentlemen,

Philada. July 25th. 1780.

We have been disagreeably betrayed into a Neglect till now of answering your Letter of May 16th.¹ This is doubly mortifying to us, because the Reasons which we must give for our Delay will tend to condemn others. We expected that a Business so reasonable as the one relative to drawing Monies out of the Hands of the Deputy Paymaster general in the eastern Department by Warrants signed by some other than a General Officer would not have required any Debate; and we thought day after day that we should be able to inclose to you the Determination of Congress on that Head. A Proposition delivered in by us was once and again withdrawn for the Sake of conciliatory Amendments, and on the 23d of June was referred to the Treasury who reported not till Yesterday what is herein forwarded.²

Due Attention shall be paid to the other Parts of Business on which you wrote and the most favorable Times watched for the Accomplishment of them. A more speedy Acknowledgement shall also be made of your future Favors as a corresponding Committee.

We are, Gentlemen, Your very humble Servants,

James Lovell

S Holten

RC (M-Ar: Revolutionary War Letters). Written by Lovell, and signed by Lovell and Holten.

¹ The May 16 letter of Thomas Cushing and Timothy Danielson, the committee appointed by the Massachusetts General Court to correspond with the state's delegates in Congress, is not in PCC. For Lovell's explanation of their delayed response to the committee, see Lovell to Elbridge Gerry, July 24, 1780.

² On July 24 Congress authorized the "supreme executive" of Massachusetts, in the absence of a general officer, to draw warrants on the deputy paymaster general for paying Continental troops serving in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. *JCC*, 17:555, 655.

A copy of this resolve was officially transmitted to the Massachusetts Council under cover of a brief letter from Pres. Samuel Huntington on August 5. Revolutionary War Letters, 203:15, M-Ar.

Nathaniel Peabody to Meshech Weare

Sir,

Camp Preakness July 25. 1780.

The 22d instant I was hond by the Rect. of your favour of the 2d instant acknowledging the receipt of my letter of the 24th ulto. You

observe it had been long since you had recd a line from me before, but make a generous excuse for me, your Self.

You will give me leave to assure You Sir, Nothing, except being personally with friends, could equal the Satisfaction I feel upon receiving letters from my friends, when at a distance, and Consequently proportionably happy in addressing them.

And altho I have been obliged, from Sheer necessity, to neglect addressing my friends when my inclination urged to the performance, Yet I have wrote a number of letters to them on various occasions, some of which were upon interesting Subjects—And which from the Rect. thereof not having been acknowledged, and other circumstances render it more than probable, have took a different rout from what was intended perhaps where they may have Given information to those That it had been better for us, they had remained in Ignorance. This Circumstance has prevented my making Such observations to my friends that other wise I should.

Last winter I did my self the honr. of addressing you upon the Subject of having a Post Office in Exeter¹ in which I inclosed a Certificate from the Post master General, That he had given Mr. Hazzard positive orders to Establish a Post office there and to appoint Mr Joseph Gilman Postmaster And to direct the post rider to take his rout accordingly. But to my no Small Surprise Am inform'd by Mr. Emery, that no Such Circumstance had taken place. I could wish for a hint from you respecting this Matter—as any Quibling objections—Hazzard may be promp[te]d to raise ought not, nor will they avail, he has no business to think in the matter, much less to Speak—and only one line from you I will take up the Matter in a most decisive manner, and perhaps in a manner that will *Convince* Hazzard that he has no business to become a *party* in the affair.²

I also wrote you 2 long letters, in the month of March, upon various interesting Subjects And at the Same time wrote Col Bartlett but from a letter I Just recd from him of an old date doubt whether they had been recd.³

I was very happy on seeing Mr. Emery. And what added Greatly to my Satisfaction upon the occasion was the very full information he gave of the Spirited Exertions of my fellow Citizens, that they Stand first upon the List, for striving to save their Country.

Mr. Emery is appointed by the Quarter Master Genl. and Com-misry Genl. to receive all Supplies from that State &c.⁴ I must beg leave to refer you to that Gent. for particular information—he will stand in need of money to enable him faithfully to discharge that Trust.

The fatigue incident to a faithfull discharge of my duty, incessant reflections on the Embarrassed Situation of our public affairs, hath Considerably injured my health, But hope when the rays of prosperity Shall have brightened a little more, I can afford a degree of relaxation Sufficient to remedy the Evil.

My most Sincere regards to the Gentlemen of the Committee of Safety. I sensibly feel for the distress of my fellow Citizens, in General, but in particular for the Committee for they have undertaken an arduous task, a Great, but necessary work. I wish them to be Strong and Courageous And the Lord Shall prosper them.

With the highest Sentiments of Esteem, I have the Hour to be Sir,
Your most obedient And very Humbl Servt, Nathl Peabody

P.S. I wrote your Honr. a line Soon after my appointment upon that Subject, as I had so often wished to be relieved and requested the interest of my friends to effect the Same—apprehended a probability of my being Superseeded, by the State in their appointment of New Delegates, at a time when my Services might be wanted in Camp. I wish for some advice from you upon that head.⁵

RC (MHi: Weare Papers).

¹ Not found.

² For Peabody's interest in establishing a Post Office at Exeter, see also Peabody to Richard Bache, August 30, 1780.

³ See Peabody to Weare, March 13 and 17, and to Josiah Bartlett, March 17, 1780.

⁴ For the appointment of Noah Emery, Jr., as assistant commissary general of purchases in New Hampshire, see *N.H. State Papers*, 17:374, 376.

⁵ Peabody's desire to be relieved had in fact already been realized since the New Hampshire Assembly had on June 27 elected George Atkinson and John Sullivan to Congress beginning November 1, 1780—unless either of their predecessors "desire to return home before that time." Accordingly, Nathaniel Folsom was relieved on September 11, 1780, by Sullivan, who remained the sole delegate representing New Hampshire until May 1781, as Peabody did not return to Congress from his assignment on the Committee at Headquarters. See *JCC*, 18:816-17.

John Walker to George Weedon

Dear General.

Philadelphia, July 25, 1780.

Your favor of the 18th instant, came to hand yesterday. I thank you for your paper and send you one in exchange. Captain Gobbie I have not yet found, but shall apply at the Board of War for information respecting the most expeditious mode of forwarding his letters.

The tories in Carolina have had a gentle currying:¹ Thank God for small mercies. I hope this is but a trifling prelude to some adagio that is to come. I speak in musical terms to a musical man. The French force at Rhode Island consists of eight ships of the line. Five thousand troops, two bomb catches, and three frigates. General Washington to be honored and obeyed by the French army as a marshal of France: the American troops always to have the right and our officers holding commissions of equal rank and date with them to take command. These are marks of great attention. Our new levies are very tardy in their operations. Why are they not sent forward?

Something important must be done this campaign or shame and disgrace will be our portion. Admiral Greaves sailed for New York a few days ago with all the naval force he could collect, amounting to about twenty sail. 'Tis said he is destined for the West Indies for the relief of Rodney's fleet which has been soundly drubbed by the Count De Guichin who has sunk one of their 74 gun ships and taken 3 more; the balance blocked up at St. Laria [Lucia]. All this by spies &c. from New York. Observe I tell it to you on no other authority. By some 'tis conjectured that Greaves is gone to take a peep at Admiral Tourney, if so I hope he may be made to pay for peeping.

General Wayne made an unsuccessful attempt to storm a block-house of the enemy's at Bergen a few days ago. The attack was made with the utmost gallantry and the place would probably have been carried, but no entrance could be found, there being no other but a subterraneous one. Our loss was sixty odd killed and wounded, in exchange for which he got some hundreds of bullocks. As much as we want beef this is but a bad exchange. This is all the news I can recollect and some of this will perhaps be more particularly related in the newspaper, which I have not yet read. When do you set out on your Southern expedition?

Success and happiness attend you when and wheresoever you go.
Adieu, my dear friend, Jn. Walker

MS not found; reprinted from Thomas Balch, ed., *Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution* (Philadelphia: Printed for the Seventy-Six Society, 1857), pp. 113-14.

¹ Walker is undoubtedly referring to the defeat of a force of loyalists at Ramsour's Mill, N.C., on June 20, 1780.

John Hanson to Philip Thomas

Dear Doct.

Philadelphia July 26th 1780

I am favoured with yours by Doctr Shipping which is the only one I have had from you since that by Mr. Shaw dated in June. Soon after my Arrival here Congress received a Letter from the Speaker of the House of Delegates inclosing a resolve of the House "that Congress be requested to order the Arms in the hands of Colo Forrest belonging to the united States to be delivered to the Governor and Council for the use of the State" which Congress Agreed to and I immediately Applied to the Board War and obtained the orders¹ which I inclosed and directed to the Speaker of the House of Delegates only, if this was out of the Common way, it might have been imputed to mistake or inattention rather than disrespect to the Senate. The truth of the matter was the resolve Containing the application, was from the House of Delegates only, and I thought it was

therefore proper to Send them the order and direct to the Speaker only.

We have had official Accounts of the Arrival of the French fleet at Rhode Island the 10th Instant. 8 Ships of the line, Several frigates with 5000 Land Forces. I wish we were ready for Co-operation. Reinforcements Come in very Slowly every State greatly deficient in their Quotas of men, much therefore must depend upon the Militia of New England, New York, Jersey and Pennsylvania. We are told by the Delegates from those states that men will not be Wanting, I wish it may turn out so. Our Magnanimous Ally is making great Exertions in our favour, and it will be most Shamefull indeed, Shoud we fail in doing our part. The want of Money is very embarrassing, and unless the Treasury is speedily Supplied, it will be very difficult to put our Army in motion and keep up the necessary Supplies of provisions; and how the Treasury is to be Supplied I am at a loss to Conceive. The States pay in nothing in Comparison to what has been demanded of them. Of the one million two hundred and odd thousand Dollars required of the State of Maryland 200,000 only has been Sent in. And the other States are equally Deficient. An Exausted Treasury when many Millions is wanting to Carry on the Operations of the present Campaign which is intended to be a very vigorous one, is truly Mortifying, however I hope by Some means or other we Shall be able to get along.

There has been lately an Embarkation of Troops at New York, and a fleet of Several Ships of War and other vessels to the Amount of 61 or 62 Sailed from the Hook Wednesday last, Steering as far as they Could be Seen, about a South East Course. Various are the Conjectures respecting their destination. Some are of Opinion that they are gone to the West Indias, to reinforce Admiral Rodney, who it is *reported* has lately met with a severe drubing from the Combined fleets, having lost in the engagement four Ships. A 74 Sunk and three taken and the rest drove into St Lucia Some in a Shattered Condition. Others are of opinion (and which I think is more probable) that their object is Rhode Island. Their Superiority in Shipping, And the number of Troops they may have to Spare from New York for So Short an Expedition may induce them to attempt Something there before the french fleet and Army Can be reinforced. A few days Will Clear up our Doubts.

Tell Colo Price his Letter to General Washington has been forwarded and that I will take Care of his tickets.

I am much Alarmed at the State of Janey's health. Pray let me hear frequently how She is. I have not yet Seen Doct. Potts. My Compliments to all friends and am with usual affection to your Self, Janey and the little ones.

Dr Doct yrs.

J.H.

[P.S.] The present Allowance I hope will be Adequate.

RC (MdHi: Hanson Letters).

¹ For this June 19 order, see *JCC*, 17:526-27. The June 12 resolve of the Maryland Assembly referred to here is in PCC, item 70, fol. 377.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[July 26-27, 1780]

26. Wednesday. The weather is very warm. I began to prepair to return home.

27. Thursday. I did not attend Congress. The post bro't me no letters. Sir James Jay spent the eveng with me.

MS (MDaAr).

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia July 26. 1780

Enclosed is an Act of Congress of the 24 Instant containing an Answer to Major General Greenes Letter of the 19 of June which you will please to communicate to him.¹

Enclosed you will also receive an Extract of a Letter from William Denning, containing Information of the Neglect or Misconduct of sundry Persons respecting public Stores. The Original is referred to the Board of War, but it is thought proper this Information should be communicated to the Committee at head Quarters.²

I have the Honor to be, with much Esteem & respect, Gentlemen, your most obedt, humble servant,

P.S. Your Letters of the 18th, 20th & 21st Instant have been received and laid before Congress.³ Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See the following entry, note 2. The committee sent Greene the enclosed "Answer to Major General Greenes Letter" on August 1. PCC, item 11, fol. 253.

² This enclosure (PCC, item 39, 2:121) was taken from a July 10 letter of treasury commissioner William Denning to John Fell, which had been laid before Congress on July 19 and referred to committee. The committee's report was submitted on July 21 and assigned for consideration on the 25th, but the matter was postponed until August 21. After a brief recommitment it became the basis of a sweeping August 22 resolve aimed at preventing "the destruction, waste, embezzlement and misapplication of the public stores and provisions." See *JCC*, 17:643, 649, 752, 754, 756-57.

³ *JCC*, 17:654.

Samuel Huntington to Nathanael Greene

Sir, Philada July 26. 1780

You will receive herewith an Act of Congress of the 24 Instant and Copy of a Letter from Moore Furman.

By this Act you are directed to appoint a Deputy Quarter Master to act in the State of New Jersey, in Order that the Difficulties apprehended by Mr Furman may be prevented.¹

You will also observe in this Act the Sense of Congress is expressed in Answer to your Letter of the 19 of June.²

By the Act of the 25 Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that Charles Pettit Esquire is appointed Assistant Quarter Master General under the late regulation.

I exceedingly lament the Necessity of any Change in the Arrangement at this critical Conjuncture but have Confidence you will do every thing in your Power to prevent any ill Consequences arising therefrom.

I am Sir &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ See *JCC*, 17:655-56; and Huntington to Furman, July 25, 1780. See also Committee at Headquarters to Greene, July 21, 1780.

² This "Act" is actually a separate resolve adopted by Congress immediately after it approved the resolve concerning Moore Furman cited in note 1. The "Sense of Congress" expressed in it conveyed the delegates' rejection of Greene's claim that he could not be held accountable as quartermaster general "for the Expenditures of his Agents," which he had contended in a lengthy letter of June 19 that had been referred to committee on June 29. For this letter and the committee's report on it, see *JCC*, 17:572, 580, 654, 656-58; PCC, item 19, 2:449-52, item 155, 1:303-14; and Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:44-46.

Congress' rejection of the position Greene had taken concerning accountability might well have been decisive to his continuation in office, but in fact he had already decided to resign as quartermaster general before receiving this communication, a decision triggered by his receipt of Congress' July 15 resolves reorganizing his department. These fundamental resolves, oddly enough, were not transmitted to him via an official letter from Huntington, but under cover of a July 26 letter to him from General Washington. See PCC, item 155, 1:399-402; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:258-59.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia July 26. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of this Day, by which the Frigates and Sloops of War therein mentioned are put under your Direction to be employed in cooperating with the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty commanded by Chevalier de Ternay.¹

The Minister of France being informed of the Situation and Condition of the Frigates, and the proper Signals, will give the necessary Information to the Commander of the french Fleet.

By the Acts of Congress of the 24 & 25 Instant enclosed you will be informed that Charles Pettit Esquire is appointed Assistant Quarter Master General—Brigadier Maxwells resignation is accepted, and that the Board of War are directed to procure a Quantity of Shot and Shells agreeable to the requisitions made by the Commander in Chief.²

I have the Honor to be, with the highest respect & Esteem, your Excellency's most obedt humble servant,

Sam. Huntington President

P.S. Your favours of the 20th & 22d have been receivd.³

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington to the chevalier de La Luzerne, July 27, 1780, note 1.

² *JCC*, 17:660-61, 663, 665, 667-68.

³ Two letters from Washington to Congress of July 20, read on July 24 and 25, are in PCC, item 152, 9:33-40, and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:218-20. A letter from Washington of the 22nd concerning the availability of troops for the southern department was read this day, but a second letter of the same date concerning the inadequacy of the states' responses in supplying the Continental Army and recommending enlargement of the powers of the Committee at Headquarters, was not read in Congress until July 31. See *JCC*, 17:668, 681; PCC, item 152, 9:43-49; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:232-36.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In committee of Congress, Preakness

Sir, July 27th. 1780

We have this moment received a letter from the quarter master General of this days date, inclosing copy of one of his to Congress, in which he resigned his office.¹ We think it our duty to observe that whatever measures Congress may deem expedient to pursue on this interesting occasion, should be speedily determined on, to prevent an increase of the various embarrassments with which the commander in Chief is already too much perplexed; for it is evident that an Army cannot be put in condition to operate, or even hardly exist without a quarter master General, and one too, that is capable of combining and directing the various duties of the subordinate officers in that department, and we cannot but express our anxiety on the difficulty of finding a person competent to this important office, if the present one is permitted to leave it in this advanced stage of

the campaign. We have the honor to be, with the highest respect and esteem, Your Excellencys, most obedient servants,

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

Nathl Peabody²

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews, Peabody, and Schuyler.

¹ Nathanael Greene's July 26 letter to Congress was read the 29th and the committee's letter the 31st. For the work of the committee to which they were referred, see Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene, July 29, 1780, note 2.

² This was the last committee letter signed by Peabody, who almost immediately returned to Morristown because of illness, for which see Peabody to the Committee at Headquarters, July 29, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada. July 27, 1780

I have the Honor to lay before you two Acts of Congress of yesterday, by which you will be informed, that the Frigates Trumbull, Deane and Confederacy, and Sloop of War Saratoga are put under the Direction of Genl Washington to be employed in co-operating with the Fleet of his most Christian Majesty commanded by the Chevalier de Ternay in any Naval Enterprizes on the Coast of North America.¹

The Board of Admiralty will deliver you the proper Signals to be used on the Approach of any of the above Vessels to the French Squadron.

You will observe the above mentioned Frigates Trumbull & Deane are soon expected to arrive in this Harbour where the other Vessels now are.

I exceedingly lament the Delay, hope they will all soon be ready to join the French Squadron.

I have the Honor to be, with the most perfect Respect and Esteem,
Sir, your most obedt and very humble servant, S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The enclosed resolve and order were adopted on July 26 in response to a letter from La Luzerne of July 25, which was read and referred to committee the same day. In it he had proposed that Congress place Continental vessels that were immediately available "under the orders of M. de Ternay, commander of the French squadron." See JCC, 17:663, 669-70; PCC, item 95, 1:120-23; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:881-82.

Committee at Headquarters to Nathanael Greene

In Committee of Congress,
Camp Preakness, July 28, 1780

Sir,
Your letter of yesterdays date, covering copy of yours to Congress, of the 26th instant has been duly received.¹

Persuaded that a change of officers in your department, at this advanced stage of the Campaign, of which the business is so very extensive and complicated, must be attended with the most ruinous consequences, we have thought it our duty to express our apprehension's to Congress on the subject;² and have since had a conference on it with the commander in chief, and we are perfectly in sentiment with him, "that your declining to act at present, will be productive of such a scene of confusion and distresses, that it will be impossible to remedy the evil, or to reduce the business to a proper channel during the remainder of the campaign," we have therefore most earnestly to intreat, that you will continue to direct the department, until the sense of Congress can be obtained on your letter of the 26th, and on ours of yesterday; but as you positively decline acting under the plan established by Congress on the 15th instant, which has been officially handed to you by the commander in chief, and as the consequences which we have stated, must inevitably follow, and be probably extended to erradicate every hope which the country entertains of an efficient operation against the enemy, in conjunction with the force of our ally, we conceive it indispensably our duty, from these considerations to require of you to continue the direction of the quarter master generals department under the order of the commander in chief as signified in his letter to you, of the 13th [*i.e.* 14th] instant, and on the conditions stated in our letter of the 16th instant, until the further pleasure of Congress can be known, and we undertake to justify you for acting in consequence of this requisition, and will submit our conduct on this occasion to the judgement of Congress.³ We have the honor to be, with great respect, Sir, Your most humble servants,

Philip Schuyler,

John Mathews.

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11).

¹ Greene's letter of "yesterdays date" is actually dated July 28, although it is endorsed by Abraham Brasher "recd. the 27th July 1780." See PCC, item 155, 1:403-6.

² See the committee's letter to Samuel Huntington, July 27, 1780. See also their letter to Huntington of the 30th.

³ See Washington's July 14 directions to Greene in Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:169-70, and the committee's July 16 letter to Greene.

In his reply this day to this letter, Greene argued that he could not honor the

committee's request to continue managing the department under Washington's order of July 14 because it had been cancelled by the commander-in-chief's letter of July 26 enclosing the new system "for your government." Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:258-59. Greene consented, however, to "conduct the business for ten days" provided that Washington gave him "a new order authorising me notwithstanding the new system, to proceed in the business independant of it" until the sense of Congress was known. See PCC, item 155, 1:411.

Samuel Holten's Diary

[July 28–29, 1780]

28. Friday. I wrote to Mrs. Holten (no. 144). The president, Justice McKean & Dr. Sheal paid us a visit.

29. Saturday. Sir James Jay spent some time with me upon state affairs.

MS (MDaAr).

Samuel Holten to Mary Holten

My dear. (No. 144) Phila. July 28th. 1780 (Friday)

After I wrote you on Tuesday last,¹ Jerry arrived Safe; I am now prepairing for my Journey, and I find myself so engaged that it will take me more time than I expected. However, I hope to git away by Tuesday next.² I am concerned how I shall git thro' the Journey this hot weather, but the tho'ts of returning keeps up my spirits; I expect to be upon the Road about 20 days, which time you must excuse my writing. Farewell, my dear, I expect to date no more letters to you from Philada. S.H.

P.S. Jerry delivered me your letter, & Sally's, which gave me much satisfaction.

FC (DLC: Holten Papers). In the hand of Samuel Holten.

¹ Not found.

² Although the journals indicate that Holten had left Congress by Monday, July 31, he did not leave Philadelphia, until August 3. See *JCC*, 17:683-84; and Samuel Adams to James Warren, August 3, 1780.

Richard Howly to Horatio Gates

Sir, Philadelphia July the 28 1780

Its with a high Degree of Satisfaction, I consider your appointment to the command of the Southern department. The gloom thrown

over our affairs in that quarter, by the heavy losses we Sustained in Charlestown, must give way to the consideration, of having an officer called forth to the general direction; whose zeal and abilities are competent, to the management of the most hazardous matters. Whilst I congratulate my country on the Principle, I wish you with great ardency Success in the Event, and as it will be the business of Congress to afford you all necessary and possible Support I must consider it as an indispensable Duty on me, from a knowledge of the Department you are engaged in, to give you Every information, that may be useful in the attainment of your object.

A Decided turn in the affairs of Georgia hath long since Characterized the Inhabitants, the various misfortunes and calamities which they underwent, have confirmed their principles. Their habit is Republican and their constitution or form of government is perfectly moulded in that frame. The form gave umbrage to Some persons in the State, and the Decisive laws they Enacted against the friends of the king of Great Britain, who were Inhabitants, and compelled to Retire, hurt their feelings, the Republican interest however preserved and still continues to preserve, the full Weight of power, and with it an indelible attachment to freedom & independence—an attachment which they have Exhibited under many instances of Signal distress, and Sealed with their blood and indeed, can any thing afford higher testimony of their principles, than that of maintaing government in the back parts of the State, at this time—a Situation which Exposes them on every Side to the attack of either the Savages or British troops.

The Honorable Stephen Heard on whom the powers of government are Devolved in my absence, as being President of the council, is a Gentleman of great zeal and integrity. Every information you may be desirous of Receiving from him will be just, his knowledge of those who may be trusted, will be useful. I would Recommend a close correspondence with him, and the deliberations of the council to your attention. There are officers, who have greatly distinguished themselves in the partizan line. Col. John Twiggs, you will find to be an intrepid, Judicious, faithful officer—his Representations, and knowledge of the Country will be just and advantageous. Col. Ben. Few, Cols. Dooly & Clark, the Captains Inman's—these are all tried & brave men and have no doubt, but they will acquit themselves with honour in Every Service, your orders may Require. I have had a long Experience of their usefulness. Augusta is a station where a tolerable force may keep in awe the disaffected in South Carolina, and form a place of Resort for all the well affected, but of this, you, Sir, will be the best, and only Judge.

Thus far I have taken the liberty to observe. Permit me now to Sollicit your attention to the Georgians in General, with a firm persuasion that the bravery, and Publick Spirit which they have hitherto

displayed will Receive peculiar lustre, from its being Exerted under the Auspices of a General; who is characterized as a friend to the Rights of Mankind; and particularly those of North America.

Captain Watson a Gentleman, who has suffered much in the Service of his country, and by whom, I forward Some Dispatches to the president of Georgia will have the honor of handing you this letter. He proposes Some stay at Camp. I must request the favor of your advice to him in proceeding to Georgia, and should you have any Commands that way, he will Execute them. I have the honor to be, with much truth & regard, Sir, yr. humbl. & obt. Servt.

Richd Howly

[P.S.] I have to request, you will please to inform me of the Necessaries which may be wanting. Many are the Embarrassments which must accompany your Command And Whilst in Congress, it will be a perfect wish with me to Endeavour to Remedy them. R. Howly

RC (NHi: Gates Papers).

Samuel Huntington to the States

Sir, Circular Philadelphia July 28. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 25 Instant herewith enclosed you will observe, that the several States which are called upon to furnish Waggons for the Service of the United States are authorized to make such Allowance for the Hire of Waggons as they shall think adequate, until Deputy Quarter Masters are appointed for the States respectively; which it is expected will soon be done.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ That is, until Congress' plan for reorganizing the quartermaster department, adopted July 15, could be implemented. *JCC*, 17:665.

Charles Thomson to the States

Sir (Circular) Secy's Office July 28th, 1780

I have the honor to enclose you an Act of Congress passed yesterday by which you will perceive that Commissions &c for private armed Vessels are to issue from this Office.¹ In consequence thereof I embrace the earliest opportunity of forwarding to you for the use of your State blank Commissions, bonds & Instructions as agreed to the 2d day of May last, and have it in Charge to inform you that

it is the intention of Congress that all Commissions and Instructions in force on the 2d day of May last be cancelled as soon as possible, & that Commissions, bonds & Instructions of the new form be substituted in place thereof.

You will please to order the bonds when Executed to be returned into this Office. When more Commissions &c are wanted for Your State they shall on the first notice be forwarded by, Sir, Your Obedient humble servt.
C.T.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 18).

¹ For the adoption of this "Act," which reversed a May 2 congressional resolve assigning the Board of Admiralty responsibility for issuing privateer commissions, see *JCC*, 17:674. See also Thomson to the States, June 20, 1780.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

[July 29, 1780]

Your letter . . . was this day read in Congress containing your determination not to act in the Quartermaster's department;¹ some warmth appeared on the occasion. For my own part, I must confess it would have given me pleasure if you could have reconciled yourself so far as to have superintended the department until the end of the present campaign, as you would thereby kept out of the power of your enemies, at least so far as to prevent their tantalizing over you, to the great mortification of your friends, of which you have a number in Congress who I believe are unanimous in opinion that your resignation at this time is attended with many delicate circumstances. When I pay the greatest deference to your wisdom and prudence, I cannot but believe it is in the power of Congress to hurt your feelings more sensibly than they yet have done, which I am ready to believe some of them would be happy in showing an instance of, and that soon. Your letter is committed; the committee are Mr. Ward, McKean, and Henry, from Maryland. I suppose they will report on Monday next;² the measures that will be taken I will not undertake to say, but I expect debate will run high.

I wrote you a letter sometime since.³ I fear it is mislaid, as I have no answer. I cannot take my leave of you without saying that I never approved of the plan as adopted by Congress for regulating the Quartermaster's department. My greatest objection was, that many of the salaries were, as I thought, insufficient, and by that means the public would suffer for want of men of ability to act in the several departments, which I expected they would soon be sensible of; and had you continued, Congress must have taken all that blame to themselves, which by the steps you have taken they will endeavor to lay at your door with too much success. I hope I may be mistaken. I

suppose there is not a set of men on earth more fond of charging their blunders to other people's fault than we are. As I conceive the great clamor against the staff departments to be first raised in order to charge the depreciation of the currency to their account by the Board of Treasury and by them spread like other infections.

MS not found; reprinted from George Washington Greene, *The Life of Nathanael Greene, Major-General in the Army of the Revolution*, 3 vols. (New York: G.P. Putnam and Son, 1867-71), 2:320-21.

¹ For Nathanael Greene's July 26 letter of resignation, see *JCC*, 17:680; and *PCC*, item 155, 1:399-402. See also Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, July 27, 1780.

² This committee did report on Monday, July 31, but action was deferred until the next day, when two members were added to the committee. This enlarged committee submitted a report on August 3, accepting Greene's resignation and demanding an apology. However, Congress decided to recommit the report, which was resubmitted and debated on August 4, before Congress resolved on August 5 "that the absolute refusal of Major Gen. Greene, at this important crisis, to act under the new arrangement of the quarter-master general's department, has made it necessary that the office of quarter master general be immediately filled." Timothy Pickering was chosen as his replacement the same day. See *JCC*, 17:682, 684, 690-92, 694, 697-98. For Cornell's reports on the delegates' angry reactions to Greene's resignation, see Cornell to Greene, August 1 and 13, 1780.

³ See Cornell to Greene, July 21, 1780.

Nathaniel Peabody to John Mathews and Philip Schuyler

Gent Morristown 29 July 80

I find myself not the worse for riding tho the pain in my breast & side not less than before.

I have forwarded Such of the articles wrote for,¹ as I have been able to obtain—have wrote Colo. Brasher particularly²—have Sent more material for Sadle Cloathes than was wrote for Supposing Mrs. Mathews might take one.

The News here today is that the 16 Sail which appeared off point Judith was the 2d division of the French fleet. The Rev. Q. M. Caldwell told me last evening he thought it might be relied on for truth that The British fleet & 10 M³ troops were destined for N. Port—Should be happy for receiving information upon the Subject. Two Lads were brot. to Town last evening in Irons who had been passg Counterfeit money & borrowing horses without leave. They have, as I am inform'd, made Great discoveries, persons unthought of, before, have been Concerned.

I am Gent with Great Esteem, your most obedt. and very Huml
Sevt,
Nathl Peabody

P.S. A pair of boots Shall be Sent for Roberson as soon they Can be procured. I can find none in the Stores in or near this place.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 78). Addressed: "Honble. Ph. Schuyler & J. Mathews Esqr., Comtee. of Congress, Head Quarters."

¹ A July 28 letter to Peabody from committee secretary Abraham Brasher, Jr., requesting his assistance in processing some supplies, is in *N.H. State Papers*, 17:397.

² Not found.

³ That is, 10 thousand.

Committee at Headquarters to Moore Furman

In Committee of Congress
West Point¹ July 30th. 1780

Sir,

General Greene has represented to us that you cannot procure carriages to transport the provisions and other Stores which are indispensibly necessary for the Army, nor forage to subsist the Cattle.² At this important Juncture when the Army cannot be put into a state of activity without those supplies, we are decidedly of opinion that you ought not to hesitate to procure carriages or forage by impress or in such other mode as will be best calculated to promote the public service.³

We are Sir with respect, Your most Obedt. Servts.

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

RC (Nj: Stryker Collection). In a clerical hand and signed by Mathews and Schuyler. FC (DNA: PCC, item 39). Written by Schuyler and addressed: "In Com Congress, Robinsons house, July. 30. 1780."

¹ The committee had risen early this day, sent a letter to Samuel Huntington from Paramus, N.J., at "3 O Clock in the morning" (see the following entry), and moved with Washington's army to the vicinity of West Point where the commander in chief established his headquarters in the house of loyalist Beverly Robinson.

² In his letter of this day to the committee, Greene recounted his repeated warnings about the mounting problems that Furman faced in transporting supplies in New Jersey because of lack of forage, the inability of state contractors to fund purchases, and the New Jersey prohibitions against direct purchase. Unless the committee found "some speedy and effectual mode to remedy this evil," Greene warned, "I am persuaded the Army must starve or disband." PCC, item 155, 1:419-20. See also William Churchill Houston to Furman, July 14; and Samuel Huntington to Furman, July 25, 1780.

³ Although the committee strongly suggested that Furman resort to impressment to supply the army, the actual order to do so came from the commander-in-chief in his letters to Greene and to Furman of July 30 and 31, for which see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:280, 286.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress, Paramus
Sir July 30th. 1780, 3 OClock in the morning

Previous to our letter of the 28th Inst. to General Greene, Copy whereof we have the honor to inclose No. 1,¹ The Commander in Chief, came to our quarters and informed us the Enemys movements had rendered it necessary that he should Change his position and approach Hudsons River—That he had ordered the army to march at three on Saturday morning—That as the Quarter Master General, had Intimated his intentions to Congress, and the Committee, that he would not continue the direction of the department under the New system, every species of embarrassment would arise and a scene of confusion and distress be produced, which in all probability would be Irremediable, and therefor entreated the Committee to apply a remedy, If in their power; A circumstance so painful, and which might produce such serious and distressing consequences, called for our immediate attention; nor was it easy to determine in such a line of conduct as would not involve the honor of Congress, (to which we are Incapable of being indifferent) on one hand, and avoid on the other evils beyond what the Generals delicacy would permit him to state to us, and to which the public were so evidently exposed. We concluded after having maturely considered the matter, under the extensive view of all the probable consequences which would flow from a deprivation of a directing head in a Department on which the very operation of the Army depended, that a personal conference with General Greene, might be productive of happy effects; We accordingly had a conversation with him, the result of which was; that he would continue to direct the business untill congress could be advised with, by us, provided we should signify what is substantially contained in the Letter No. 1. We accordingly addressed the letter to which We received an answer of which No. 2 is a Copy.² Alarmed at the short period stated by General Greene, as that beyond which, he would not continue to Act; considering what was proper to be done on this occasion, we concluded to desire General Greene to take back his letter, and to request a declaration on his part, that he would continue to serve until the pleasure of Congress should be known. We determined on this with the express view, that if he consented to make the alterations agreeable to our wish, we would submit to Congress, whether combining every consideration, It might not be adviseable for Congress to withhold an answer on the subject as stated in our letter No 1, Inclosed, and to let the business Slide on under the orders of the General, countenanced by the Committee, in order to superceed the necessity of repeating an act so recently

passed and the objections to which, were likely to produce a change of Officers and a consequent variety of embarrassment in a most Critical moment. Impressed with the necessity of this measure as the only one which afforded a probable prospect of bringing this business to any tolerable conclusion, we last evening met General Greene and proposed the alteration, he replied, In substance "that such an alteration was totally Inadmissable—that if even he should continue to Act, Colo. Cox and Mr. Pettit would not—That others would also resign—That without the two former especially, he could not efficiently prosecute the business of the department, already involved in almost insurmountable difficulties, from the want of money and the Jealousies which were entertained in regard to the Officers of the Department—That nothing less than a repeal of the act of the 15th Inst., and a power lodged in the Commander in Chief, in the Committee, or in both conjointly to regulate the department as circumstances should require, and a request on the part of Congress, to Colo. Cox & Mr. Pettit, to re-assume their employments, could again put the business in train and induce a continuance of his and their services, in this line—That he required no pecuniary reward beyond his necessary expences; nor did Colo. Cox make it an object, but Mr. Pettits circumstances would not admit of his Serving the public without an adequate compensation." Thus Sir, have we stated the transactions on this business and Congress are now fully possessed of all the facts relative to it, and in their deliberations on the subject will doubtless contrast two great objects, their dignity, and the public Weal, in the present critical situation of our affairs, and come to such conclusions as shall appear to them most proper, at the same time we will beg leave to observe That in whatever point of view we consider our present situation, distress in the extreame presents itself. Intelligence has been received (not yet indeed authenticated, but bearing strongly the semblance of truth, that its veracity is little doubted,) That the Enemy are gone in force to Rhode Island, this will probably oblige the General to cross the Hudsons River, and impell him with his little Army to movements tending to draw back the enemys attention. These movements may point at New York, but they can merely point for which more can be done, with an Army when that department on which so much reliance in operations must be placed, is on the point of being totally dissolved, an Army scanty supplied with provisions and other necessaries to which the means of transportation is not afforded—the forage required not furnished, and the Officers still acting in the Quarter Masters Department without money to provide either. Indeed Sir, we are arrived at a dreadful period, and nothing now seems capable of extricating us from ruin, but decisive and spirited measure by Congress in some cases, and a temporising conduct in others, when times, exigencies & conjunctures rendered it indispensable.

Aware Sir, of the delicacy of giving an opinion on a subject w[h]ere

the feelings of Congress are so evidently concerned, Nothing could induce us to it, but the clearest conviction, founded on the most minute observation, and meeting with the Concurrence with the Commander in Chief, that a change of Officers in the Quarter Master Genls. Department, in this stage of the Campaign, and under the embarrassments of our affairs, must be absolutely productive of ruin; under these circumstances we conceive that to be silent would be criminal; and therefore must take the freedom of recommending a suspension of the New system for the Quarter Masters Departmt., as pressing exigencies have arisen which render it necessary for the present, and to empower the Commander in Chief, to arrange the Department, in such a manner as to adapt it to the present Circumstances of our affairs.

We have just now received a letter from Genl. Greene, of which the enclosed No. 3 is a Copy, We have had the subject under consideration before, and took measures to procure forage, it seems without affect.³

We wish Congress to interfere with as much dispatch as the business evidently requires. We have had the honor in the course of this month, to address Congress, on matters of the first moment to the Weal of these States, a want of adequate information from them, is extremely distressing. We therefore intreat their Determination on the most capital articles, as on this, which most certainly does not admit of any delay.

We have the honor to be, with the greatest Respt. & Esteem, Your Excellencies Most Obt. H Sevts.

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

P.S. 7 O. Clock

Dispatches are this moment arrived from Rhode Island of the 26th & 27th Inst. The British fleet is off the harbour, and in such force as to give us great pain for the event, should an attack be made on ours. This should be kept a secret.

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Mathews and Schuyler. Endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Letter from the comee at head Quarters July 30. 1780. Read Aug 1. With Numbers 1. 2. 3. Referred to Mr Henry, Mr McKean, Mr Ward, Mr J. Jones, Mr Ingersol. 1. Commee. to genl Greene July 28. 2. Genl. Greene to Comee July 28. 3. do to do July 30."

¹ See the committee's letter to Nathanael Greene, July 28, 1780.

² For Greene's concession to serve an additional 10 days under new orders from Washington, see *ibid.*, note 2.

³ For Greene's July 30 letter to the committee, see the preceding entry, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to John Adams

Sir, Philadelphia July 30 1780
Since your Arrival in Europe I have been favoured with your sev-

eral Despatches of the 11 & 16 of December last, the 16 of January, the 15, 17, 19, 20, 25, 27, and 29 of February, the 8, 18, 19, & 23 of March.¹

It is probable the Committee of foreign Affairs may have acknowledged the receipt of these Despatches, and several Duplicates which have been also received.

I presume they have given you particular Intelligence of all material Occurrences in America since your Departure, it being properly in their Department, and a Business which my present Engagements will by no Means permit me to undertake in so ample a Manner as is necessary, or would be agreeable to your Wishes.

Before this comes to hand you will have received the disagreeable Intelligence of the Capitulation and Surrender of Charles Town, in which the Brave General Lincoln with about two thousand Continental Troops (Officers included) were made Prisoners.

On the Evening of the 10th Instant the French Squadron under the Command of the Chevalier de Ternay arrived off New Port. The Comte de Rochambault has since landed his Troops on Connanicut.

Three Days after their Arrival Admiral Graves with a British Squadron arrived at New-York, and being joined by the Ships there soon put to Sea; and we have just received Advice that Graves with his whole Squadron since their Junction is cruising off New Port. The exact Number & Strength of his Squadron I cannot learn, but it is thought equal if not superior to Ternays.

Without a decisive Superiority of naval Strength in these Seas we cannot expect to expell the Enemy from New York this Campaign where we have been plagued with them long enough.

We have been waiting some Time in anxious Expectation of Intelligence from the West Indies, but by the latest Intelligence from thence nothing Capital had been done as late as the 15th Instant.

I have the Pleasure to inform you that the State of Massachusetts have established their Constitution, a desirable and important Event.

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of respect, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (MHi: John Adams-Embassy Manuscripts). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 16:288, 335, 17:428, 653. These letters are in *PCC*, item 84, 1:227-49, 263-69, 281-82, 291-97, 311-12, 329-35, 345-48; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:422-23, 427-28, 457-62, 494-95, 499, 504-9, 519, 524-27, 539, 557-58, 560-61, 568-70.

The following day Huntington also received letters from Adams of March 20, 24, 26, 27, 28, and 29, 1780, which had been forwarded by Ralph Izard from Rhode Island where he had recently arrived, and which were read in Congress on August 1. See *JCC*, 17:685; *PCC*, item 84, 1:337-40, 349-72; and (except for those of March 27 and 28) Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:561, 570-76, 578-80. See also the first letter of the Committee for Foreign Affairs to Adams of July 11, 1780, note 4.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia August 1st. 1780

I wrote you on Saturday last mentioning your letter containg your refusal to act as QM General since which a letter from General Washington, another from the Committee at Head Quarters inclosing your letters to them, all on the same subject have been read in Congress. The Comtt I mentiod in my last reported yesterday, that report with the formentioned letters is recommited. If I can judge from information and from my own observation I shall be happy if the dispute shall terminate more favourable to you than the passing a Resolution ordering the Commander in chief to excuse you from all further Command in the line of the Army untill you shall have fully settled all your accompts in the Q.M.G. Department. In a word I belive it is the wish of some that the suspension may finally opperate as a final discharge. I am convinced your conduct is considered in a different point of view from what you expected.¹

I am with every sentiment of Esteem, your most obedt Huml
Servant, E Cornell

RC (MiU-C: Greene Papers).

¹ For a discussion of congressional action on General Greene's letter of resignation, see Cornell to Greene, July 29, 1780, note 2.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia August 1st. 1780

I do myself the honour to write your Excellency by this Post, Altho I have nothing new to write, yet like all the humane specia, I cannot help complaining when in distress. All publick business, appears to be nearly at a stand, Part of the Ten Million of Dollars the states were called on for by the Resolution of the 19th of May, hath been paid into the Treasury, which gave us a momentary relief, but is now every farthing expended. Our publick officers cannot command any, if the salvation of our Country should depend on that single point. The Necessity of appointing General Washington, sole Dictactor of America, is again talked of as the only means under God by which we can be saved, from destruction, At the same time, some reprobate the measure. It appears to me that of two evils necessity will soon compel us to make our choice, I hope we shall be so wise as to chuse the least.¹ The people will not work for the Continent without money nor trust her for any articles, wanted for the Army. Therefore they

must be supported by the force of Military Law, or disband, untill the new Bills is put into circulation, when that will be I know not.

I have the honour to be your Excellencys most obedient Humble
 Servant,
 Ezek. Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Proposals to give General Washington dictatorial powers, particularly in matters of supplies for the army, resurfaced and gained strength with the imminent recall of the Committee at Headquarters and the repeated failure of states to meet their supply quotas. The subject probably arose, at this point, during discussions over lifting restrictions on Washington's operational authority—a decision reached the next day, August 2. See Philip Schuyler to Robert R. Livingston, May 30, note 4; Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, July 18, note 13; and Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, August 3, 1780. See also James Lovell to Elbridge Gerry, September 5 and November 20; and John Mathews to Washington, September 15, 1780.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir,

Philadelphia August 1st 1780

The two Letters directed to the Delegates were yesterday laid before Congress.¹ That relating to our Troops to the Southward was referred to the Board of War and am in hopes the wants of our Troops will Speedily be relieved especially as General Gates is invested with ample powers to appoint Officers and to do every thing that may be necessary for the Support of the Southern Army. The other Letter respecting the protection of the Maryland and Virginia Trade is referred to the Board of Admiralty and tho Congress are disposed to do every thing to Comply with the requisition yet I fear it is not in their power to yeild Any protection at all at present.² I think we have only four frigates and those are to Join the french fleet at present much inferior to that of the British which is now off Rhode Island. Troops are Sending off from New York by way of the Sound and in Consequence General Washingtons Army is in motion towards the north River. Have inclosed you the packet and am with usual Esteem & regard, Dear sir, Your most hble Servt,

John Hanson

[P.S.] I hope We Shall be able to forward our new money in about a fortnight.

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ JCC, 17:682. For these two letters, and a third from Lee addressed to President Huntington, see PCC, item 70, fols. 403-18; and *Md. Archives*, 43:235-36, 238.

² For Congress' response to this appeal from Maryland for the deployment of a Continental frigate to the Chesapeake for the protection of the state's trade, see Samuel Huntington to Lee, August 10, 1780.

John Henry to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadela. Aug. 1. 1780

Your two letters addressed to the Delegates were laid before Congress and that respecting the Situation of the Maryland line referred to the board of War, and the other to the Admiralty.¹ It is much to be lamented that the States of Virginia. and N. Carolina have not or cannot furnish provisions for the Troops that are sent for their protection. The State of the army under Genl. Washington and the objects in view will leave us little room to afford them any assistance from this quarter, indeed if we had the provisions it would be impossible to transport them in the present exhausted State of our Treasury. It is with pain that I reflect, that Congress or some one who shall derive his authority from them, must soon exert the same powers *here*, that the Maryland line has else where; without it, I firmly believe it will be impossible to prosecute the present Campaign with vigour and success; and where this will end God only knows.

I am however in hopes that the distresses of the Southern Army will cease on the arrival of General Gates, who has joined them before this Time. He has full powers to appoint the necessary Staff officers and to take every other measure for the protection of that Country. His influence and Authority I trust will enable him speedily and fully to relieve the wants of the Army. From this State or even from Maryland it would be impossible to supply them; the expence would be insupportable.

What ever is the result of the deliberations of the Board of War shall forthwith be communicated to you, which will probably be in the course of a few Days.

It gives me pain to hear of the losses sustained by our merchants, and still more when I reflect it is out of our power to afford them protection. I have never lost sight of the former application, and therefore I did not urge a report from the admiralty, knowing that if one was made, it could not be in our favour.² I expected on the arrival of the French Fleet, that their Force would be so considerable and superior to that of the Enemy, that we should be left at liberty to employ our own frigates to the protection of our Trade; but that we know is not at present the case; the Minister a few days ago urged Congress to send forward the remnant of our little Fleet to join the French squadron and to fullfil our engagements in this respect, which the Honour and Faith of Congress readily induced them to comply with. It is not impossible but our ally may have a decided superiority on our coasts, when that is the case, we shall urge Congress to a permanent resolve for assigning part of our Frigates to the protection of the Trade of our Bay. At present it is impossible to grant the aid requested consistantly with our Faith and engagements to the Min-

ister of France. When the letters were read yesterday, Congress manifested the Strongest desire to comply with the request of the State and I believe would have unanimously done it had it been in their power. If the conjuncture of affairs should put it in our power to urge the Matter with propriety our endeavour shall not be wanting.

You are not uninformed that the number of our Fleet is reduced to four or five Frigates and one of them in Europe and another (the Confederacy) in this harbour, and where from the reduced State of our finances she has been obliged to lay. She will however soon be at Sea.

The British Fleet is off the harbour of Rhode Island and they manifest an Intention of sending land forces up the sound from New-York; should this be the case G. Washington has taken the necessary Measures to give them all the aid in his power.

Walsingham has joined Admiral Rodney in the West Indies, and both Fleets are at Sea; the combined Fleets it is supposed are destined for Jamaica.

You have not been kind enough to answer my two former private letters.³ I should be always very happy to hear from you, and to receive such information as you may think proper to communicate; Your letter read yesterday in Congress respecting the Flour gave great pleasure.

Give my Compliments to Mrs. Lee and such of the Ladies as hold me in remembrance and believe me to be with the most perfect Attachment, your Excellency[s] friend and hble. Servt.

J. Henry. Junr.

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ See the preceding entry, note 1.

² See the preceding entry, note 2.

³ Not found.

Henry Laurens to Richard Henry Lee

Dear sir.

Philadelphia 1st Augt 1780.

Had I at any time since my arrival here been possessed of a scrap of good News I should have attempted to allay your hungry & thirsting. In the 31 days which I have been sauntering away about the City & Congress Chamber, I have heard nothing pleasing to the mind, seen nothing but melancholy accomplishments of the last Year's predictions, such circumstances as I could wish to communicate in a shady retreat, but cannot venture to display upon Paper. The Body Politic is sick, Sick indeed! The Servants of the House are more & more riotous & unless relief be immediately administred by wise exertions of the better branches of the family a dissolution or violent convulsion will infallibly be the consequence. What a picture

is this, & yet believe me my Dear Sir it is not too highly coloured. What an unhappy Man must he be who is entring upon service in such a family. When at some times I have taken up the Pen intending to pay my respects to my worthy friend at Chantilly a damp Cloud has overspread me & I have laid the Pen down again. The last Post Morning, maugre all reluctance, I had determined to acknowledge the rect. of your obliging Letter of 10th Ult^o.¹ Govr Rutledge came in & demanded my attendance in a conversation respecting the recovery of our Southern States. The subject was Interesting & detained me till the hour for writing was past, I confess, I felt a kind of gladness from being provided with so good an excuse & I almost wish for as good a one in the present moment, but I altogether wish for the assistance of your self & some other Men of abilities in our great Council. We have at present as far as I am able to pronounce, an honest composition but chiefly made up of new hands, who from a want of knowledge of things past are more liable to err in judgement by confining their views to the appearance of the thing immediately before them, instances in point have frequently occurred within my 30 days experience. This is an Evil, but perhaps not the greatest. The Wheels of the Machine are clogged, the proper means for renewing their motion are wanting & every State & every Man is praying to Jupiter, he has provided them with Shoulders & will work no miracles for such Lubbers. This Pen strikes to add, we have no Money, no Credit on this side & are running fast, not wantonly, in debt on the other, but I will restrain it.

The French Fleet under Monsr. de Ternay is blocked up at Rhode Island by a superior squadron commanded by Admirals Graves & Arburthnot who now lie between that first & an expected second division & we are told Sir Henry Clinton is embarking 9000 Troops in the So. and intending an attack upon our Allies on the Island. The Cheval. L——² assures me the 2d division is competent to defence, I wish it may be so. Messrs. Ternay & Rochambeau hold themselves to be secure from Insult, American Troops are gathering fast, to join them.

The Commander in Chief has in this critical Moment transmitted to those Officers his definitive plan of operations, says, the Die is cast & he rests upon the States for saving our Arms from dishonor & disgrace by making the necessary provisions. He is not responsible on this point.

The Quarter Master General at a most critical period has signified an inclination to resign, this Morning will probably produce an acceptance but not without traits of displeasure.³ The present conduct of that Gentleman seems to give much dissatisfaction within doors—what can have tempted him to treat Congress with sneer & sarcasm? He applies to them the odious epithet, Administration, & is so fond of the conceit as to repeat & reiterate his wit.

The General Officers in the same unlucky moment remonstrate

for means which shall enable them to dress & keep Tables upon a par with Officers of their Rank in the Army of our Ally—a friend of yours says Aye! the demand is reasonable—a Warrant moreover should be Issued for furnishing them with equipages, good breeding & education equally with the French Nobility, said Officers, “to be accountable.” These are cursed troublesome affairs in a cursed troublesome conjuncture of knotty points. Majr. General McDougal I am told is waiting an answer,⁴ but we have not yet determined that Congress shall be enabled to live in splendor equal to that of the Minister of France, nor that the American Minister at Versailles shall cut as superb a figure as the Venetian Ambassador. ’Tis to be hoped the General Officers will not insist upon taking by force the right hand of fellowship. What shall we conclude of the designs of Gentlemen who demand what they know cannot be granted. O Virtue! O Patriotism! whither are ye fled!

Undoubtedly Mr. Lovel has written to you respecting Mr. A Lee & Mr. Izard, therefore I shall say nothing.

The Laws lately enacted in your State appear all to be salutary & I hope the good views of the Legislature will be fully accomplished;⁵ I think it most probable, the Men raised in Virginia will be destined for Southern service, a Committee will report on that head tomorrow, after all, the want of Money & the want of virtue which comprehends the want of every Thing, presents to my mind an unfavorable prospect. Governor Rutledge attends the Committee alluded to & will proceed to the Army under General Gates when the business in hand is completed.

I have been waiting here upwards of three Weeks in perfect readiness for embarkation, Congress having Resolved that it is highly necessary I should proceed to Holland; I am not of their opinion but will nevertheless go whenever their Lordships of the Admiralty shall have equiped a Little Packet Boat which Mr. Laurens would have turned his back upon, the business might have been done in three days, but say they, we want Money, we want ——— we want ——— the wheels are cloged. Possibly I may be called upon to morrow perhaps not these ten days, the suspense is painful, & if my presence is at all wanted yonder, the delay must be extremely detrimental to the Public Interest.⁶

Inclosed with this you will recieve two of Dunlap’s Papers to which I beg leave to refer. I also beg you to present my best compliments to Mrs. Lee & the families at Chantilly & Menokin, should I go from hence without paying my duty to Colo. F. Lee I will certainly allow large Interest in transmissions from Europe. With every good wish & with the Highest Esteem & Regard I conclude, My Dear Sir, Your affectionate & Obedient, humble servant, Henry Laurens

¹ See Lee, *Letters* (Ballagh), 2:186-88.

² Doubtless the French minister, the chevalier de La Luzerne.

³ For Congress' acceptance of the resignation of Nathanael Greene, see Ezekiel Cornell to Greene, July 29, 1780, note 2.

⁴ See Samuel Huntington to Alexander McDougall, August 13, 1780.

⁵ For Lee's discussion of recent legislative proceedings in the Virginia House of Delegates, see Lee, *Letters* (Ballagh), 2:180-82, 185-87.

⁶ Laurens finally left Philadelphia for the Netherlands on board the *Mercury* August 13. The ship was captured by the British on the banks of Newfoundland on September 3. David D. Wallace, *The Life of Henry Laurens* (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915), pp. 357-58.

John Mathews to Thomas Bee

Dear sir,

Peak's Kill August 1st. 1780

I am a good deal surprized at not having heard from you since I left Phila.

On the enemy's making a movement towards Rhode Island, our army moved on towards the grand point of our intended operation, to be ready to take advantage of favorable circumstances, but their sudden return to New York, has, I fear disconcerted all our plans, & we must now return to our original one, how far we shall be able to pursue it, & whether to effect, circumstances & time must determine. Whatever important changes from time to time happen this way, you may be assured of being informed of.

The arrival of the French fleet in so weak a State, when Graves's sailing must have been known, is a political stroke. I cannot develop—Can you? I almost give over all hopes of a Southern Campaign this Winter, for without a superiority at Sea, the thing is not to be undertaken. I suppose 'ere this you'll have seen Izard, full of wrath, & indignation. I have not time to say more, than to request my Complts. to Mrs. Bee, & Miss Smith, & to assure you that I am My Dear Bee, Yours most sincerely,

RC (ScC: Bee Papers). In the hand of John Mathews; signature clipped.

Georgia Delegates to George Washington

Sir,

Philadelphia, 2 August, 1780.

We do ourselves the pleasure to enclose to your Excellency, a letter from Governor Burt, of Antigua, respecting Mr. Thomas Morris, an officer of the Continental artillery in the Georgia line, to General Prevost, who was supposed to be Commanding Officer in the Southern Department. You will perceive that its object is to liberate Mr. John Burke, a citizen of that Island, who is your prisoner, and whose



William Few

parole he says you took at Cambridge in 1776. Mr. Morris says he speaks in the highest terms of your treatment of it, and wishes that you would favor his exchange for Mr. Morris. The Delegates of Georgia, in addition to a claim upon your attention on account of his having a large family, & having suffered to their knowledge most capitally by the war, would be obliged to your Excellency to propose the Exchange to Sir Henry Clinton.¹

We are, Sir, with great respect, Your Excellency's most ob. Sevt.

Geo Walton

Edwd. Telfair

W Few

RC (MA: Signers' Collection). Written by Walton and signed by Walton, Few, and Telfair.

¹ Washington forwarded the enclosed letter from Gov. William M. Burt to Gen. Augustine Prevost in a September 17 letter to Sir Henry Clinton, who agreed to the exchange of Burke and Morris in his reply of November 29, for which see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 20:53-54, 67, 366, 375-76, 448-49; and Great Britain, Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain*, 4 vols. (1904-9; reprint ed., Boston: Gregg Press, 1872), 2:82, 183.

James Lovell to Elbridge Gerry

Sir,

Augst. 2d. 1780.

The Bearer of this, our very virtuous Colleague¹ will, I hope, have an early Opportunity of conversing with you so as to communicate all that is interesting of our political Doings here. He has from me a New Jersey Gazette of July 19th which contains Part of an Act of that State of June 9th relative to Finance; and you will see by the 10th Section that the Plan you mentioned to us in yours of June 26th is there adopted. We shall promote the sending on the whole Quota of New Bills to our State immediately.

Your Favor of July 10th by Shelden with the six hundred Dollars inclosed was duly received; and he has also paid into my Hands what he owed on the Qr. Mastr.'s Commissary's & Barrack Master's Accounts against our Family so that *I am responsible now for the Settlement of them*. I suppose that Mr Izard brought Letters for Bostonians as late as for us so that you now know all foreign Affairs,² particularly that our Fugitives will *probably* be soon discarded in England.³

I must scratch a Line or two to another Friend before the Doctr. mounts his Chaise which is at the Door.

Yours always,

J.L.

RC (NN: Gerry-Townsend Papers).

¹ That is, Samuel Holtz, who was returning to Massachusetts.

² Upon his arrival in Rhode Island, Ralph Izard had forwarded a packet of letters

from John Adams to Congress, for which see Samuel Huntington to Adams, July 30, 1780, note.

³ In a letter to Congress of March 24, 1780, John Adams had reported that the British government was considering a bill to end pensions and salaries for American refugees. Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:572-73.

Samuel Adams to James Warren

My dear Sir

Philadelphia Augt 3d 1780.

I receivd your favor of the 13th of July by Yesterdays Post. On my Journey I met Mr Gerry at Hartford, where we were unexpectedly engagd in publick Business with Governor Trumbull.¹ I utterly forgot that I had your Letter to him, but since you have empowered me to open it, I find, it wd have been of no Advantage to you to have deliverd it to him there. I waited upon the *only* Gentleman of the Committee of Commerce now in Town,² who told me your Account was not settled.³ I urgd it, and will continue to do so as a Matter which ought not to be delayd. When this is done, I will pursue the Step which you request.

I do not like the Situations of the two Fleets. The English appears to be the superior, and while they lie before R Island, they may serve two great Purposes, the intercepting the 2d Division from France, and the giving their Cork Fleet an Opportunity of arriving at N. York. If our Privateers were cruizing off the Hook at this Juncture it might be advantageous to them as well as to the Publick. I am sorry to find that the Trumbull & the Dean are to run a double & I think a needless Risque of falling into the Enemies Hands; but if this be an illjudgd Measure, you are not accountable for it.

The Doctor is this Moment going,⁴ which prevents my adding to this Letter. I refer you to him for Intelligence.

Adieu my dear Sir, and be assured that I am, your affectionate,
S A.

RC (MHi: Warren-Adams Papers).

¹ For the "publick business" transacted by Adams and Elbridge Gerry at Hartford, see Samuel Holten to John Avery, June 20, 1780, note 3.

² According to the journals three members of the Committee of Commerce—John Fell, Timothy Matlack, and Edward Telfair—had voted in Congress on August 2 and therefore were available to be consulted at this time. *JCC*, 17:638.

³ The Committee of Commerce did not report on the settlement of Warren's accounts until November 28, at which time the Board of Treasury was ordered to pay the money "certified" by the committee to be due him. *JCC*, 18:1100.

⁴ That is, Samuel Holten.

John Armstrong, Sr., to William Irvine

Dear General

Philada. 3d August 1780.

I cannot pass so favourable an opportunity of answering your kind

letter as that of Coll Johnston¹ altho' an interview wou'd much better Serve to disclose or unburthen the mind which cannot so properly be done by Pen & ink.

Your Soldiers Shirts are by this time I hope gone forward, with Overalls, and as much dispatch in procuring Shoes as can well be made. As you are now to have but a few hints, the great concern of *an Empty Treasury* with a thousand daily demands, forms the front line of my highest fears & deepest distress. We want at this moment to draw money, produce, transportation &c. from these States to whom we are already deeply indebted, and whom our delinquency in payment disenables from advancing those Taxes whereon at present we depend. How the Scheme of business & Finance contained in the resolution of the 18th of March last will operate for our relief is yet uncertain but doubted by too many, for altho' it is considered by many good judges to be at once just & wise respecting the publick at large, yet various individuals suppose themselves injured or disappointed by fixing the money at forty to One, and therefore decry the measure. Mr. Laurens by our reverse of fortune in South Carolina has been retarded in his voiage to Holand for which place he sets out from hence in a few days for the purpose of borrowing money for the United States. Mr. Sarel² was Set out (before yr. letter came to hand) for Holland also, in order to procure Cloathing for the Pennsylvania line of our Army, with Some other necessaries for the State, which if he is Successful, I hope may be of some use to us. Genl. Greens peremptory resignation in the business of Qr. M. Gl. or refusal to act under the new regulation for that Departmt. at this very critical moment, has at once disappointed and thrown Congress into a degree of vexatious distress, greater than can well be expressed, or has yet happened, in regard of any individual, nine tenths of the difficulty arises from the importance of the present moment. The Committee of Congress at Camp appears to make Genl. Greens continuance of absolute necessity—so that if he is retained, the measures of Congress for reforming that department must be recinded, & the Censures of the publick must remain agst. Congress, as deaf to their remonstrances for the reformation of abuses. The remonstrance of the Genl. Officers was this morning read & Committed to a respectable Committee,³ the greater part whereof will in my Opinion meet the Cordial attention of Congress who are as well disposed to do anything in their power that is in itself right, as men can be.

The controversy betwixt you & Genl. Hand gives some pain to all your friends that I have heard speak of it, as tending to derange many things now established & introduce a new field of dispute which cou'd not be well Settled again.⁴ These and Sundry such Sentiments prevail at the Board of War, whom it is said are possessed of written Opinions of high Authority which clearly conclude agst. the utility, if not also agst. the right of your claim; for they will not allow that

the resolution of Congress for securing the rank of Prisoners, extends to your case, or at least that this is doubtful. That *the first appointment* of Genl. Officers being wholly with Congress, belongs not to the ordinary line of rank secured by the resolution to which we have alluded. I cou'd, especially with the consent of my Colleagues bring this matter before Congress, but whether brought on in this way, or by a plain & dispassionate memorial from yr. Self, the immediate consequence wou'd be a reference to the Board of War, and from thence (as far as I can learn) to the Commander in Chief & a Board of Officers at Camp. I have thought it necessary to write you thus plainly, having Strong apprehensions that if carried to the uttermost, it will ultimately go agst. you. I therefore wish you cou'd either reconcile it to your Self from what you may have learned of the Sense of others, to give it up, or to write me Soon, that it may be brought to a period. Be assured that Sentiments from Camp, and also Sentiments formed here promise no Success to yr. claim in the present question. I hope you will judge right—and am most Sincerely Yours,

John Armstrong

4th. The present State of Our Southern department is very forbid-ing. The letters of Genl. Gates & Baron DeCalb, draw the picture of universal want, more particularly in the Articles of money & provisions. Genl. Green having So peremptorily refused the necessary Service, is likely to be discharged from all other—today must end this disagreeable matter. I beg you will present my best wishes to the Gentn. of Our line. I intend this by Coll Johnstone, together with a conference before he Set out.

J.A.

RC (PHi: Irvine Papers). Addressed: "Brigadier General William Irvine at Camp."

¹ Col. Francis Johnston, commander of the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment.

² That is, James Searle.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Alexander McDougall, August 13, 1780, note.

⁴ For the background of Irvine's seniority claim and dispute with Edward Hand, see these *Letters*, 11:123, 12:424-25n, 464; and Armstrong to Washington, October 15, 1779, note 3. For the report of the board of general officers appointed by Washington to adjudicate the dispute, which had recently concluded that it could not determine the matter, see Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:112, 138.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

In Committee of Congress, Headquarters
Peekskill, 3d August 1780.

Sir

Deeply impressed with the necessity of a speedy determination on the plan proposed to Congress for arranging the inspectors, and muster masters departments, We beg leave to call the attention of

Congress to that business.¹ As the troops are daily coming in, and there are no proper officers yet appointed to muster them, for want of whom great abuses are likely to arise as it is impracticable to know, whether the quotas requiried of the several States, are compleated or not or what numbers have actually joined the Army, particularly of the Militia.²

We have the honor to be, with the highest respect and esteem,
Your Excellency's Most obedient humble Servts.

Ph. Schuyler

Jno. Mathews

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews and Schuyler.

¹ The "plan proposed to Congress" was undoubtedly that drawn up by the baron von Steuben for establishing the inspector generals department which Washington had sent to Congress on July 14 with the admonition that it be "put into full activity without loss of time." See PCC, item 152, 9:5-8; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:171-72. The original plan is in PCC, item 152, 9:9-16; a copy is in PCC, item 169, 7:161-72.

² The committee was chiefly concerned here with the failure of the mustering system following the abolition of the muster department on January 12, 1780, when "the business of mustering" was assigned to the inspector general's department. See *JCC*, 16:47. Baron Steuben, who had repeatedly written to Congress "with respect to the Organization of my Department," explained again in a letter of this day that "many parts of the Army are without Inspectors" and "even the different Brigades in the line who have Inspectors are several Months without being Muster'd." Unless some action was taken on the plan, he concluded, "it would be more beneficial to the service to reestablish the Muster Masters Department." See PCC, item 164, fols. 190-92.

Steuben's plan had been read in Congress on July 17 and assigned for consideration on the 20th, but no action was taken. The committee's letter, which was read August 7, was also tabled. With the reading of Steuben's August 3 appeal on August 14, his letter and the reorganization plan were referred to the Board of War. The board issued an extensive report on August 24, which was referred on the 30th to a committee of three chaired by Artemas Ward. Congress resumed consideration of the plan on September 23 and adopted a considerably modified version on the 25th continuing the inspector general's responsibility for mustering troops. See *JCC*, 17:636-37, 701, 727, 764-70, 796, 18:853-61.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia August 3. 1780

You will herewith receive an Act of Congress of the 2 Instant, consequent upon the report of a Committee to whom your Letters of the 18, 20 & 21 of July were referred. By this Act you will observe, that all Restrictions upon the Commander in Chief, which confined his Operations to the Limits of the United States, are taken off.¹

You will also be further informed of the Sense and Proceedings

of Congress on the several other Matters mentioned in their Act inclosed.

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of Respect and Regard, Gentlemen, your most obedt hbble servant,
 Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For Huntington's enclosure, which is in PCC, item 39, 2:81-82, see *JCC*, 17:686-88. For discussion of the committee's request for the removal of restrictions on General Washington, see Committee at Headquarters to Huntington, July 18, 1780, note 13.

Huntington also sent Washington the following note this day notifying him of this decision. "By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 2 Instant you will be informed that all restrictions by any former Acts of Congress which confine the Operations of the Commander in Chief to the Limits of these United States are taken off." Washington Papers, DLC.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada August 3. 1780

I have the Honor to lay before you an Act of Congress of the 31 Ultio, by which you will be informed of the Measures they have adopted respecting the recruits that may be enlisted into the Service of his most Christian Majesty out of the German Deserters from the Enemy.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c, S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ La Luzerne had been approached by a number of Hessian deserters with an offer to enlist in the service of France, and he had consulted Pres. Joseph Reed of Pennsylvania on accepting their offer. When Reed advised him that he was perfectly free to enlist them, because the recruitment of deserters into the Continental Army was expressly prohibited, La Luzerne had sought Congress' permission to consult the Board of War on possible arrangements for their temporary subsistence. By the enclosed resolve, Congress authorized the board "to take such measures relating to the subsistence of the [German] recruits . . . as the Board shall deem proper." See *JCC*, 17:670, 684; PCC, item 95, 1:130-32; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 4:11.

Samuel Huntington to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Sir, Philadelphia August 3. 1780

By the enclosed Act of Congress of the 29th Ultio you are directed to make Sale of the public Sugars mentioned in Governor Trumbulls Letter of the 1st of May last to be in your Hands, and report to Congress the Amount thereof.¹

A Copy of the Governors Letter above referred to, you can obtain

from him (if need be) in which his Excellency mentions having advised you to make Sale of those Sugars, which you may have already done in Consequence of his Advice.

I am Sir, with great Respect, your most obedient Servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (CtHi: Wadsworth Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ In a letter of May 1, 1780, Connecticut governor Jonathan Trumbull had appealed to Congress to authorize Wadsworth to sell a quantity of sugar remaining in his hands, the proceeds to be applied to Connecticut's account. This action was necessary, Trumbull advised, because the Continent was greatly in arrears in its payments to the state, and money was needed immediately to pay Connecticut suppliers who were threatening to withhold provisions from market because payment promises had not been honored. The letter had been referred to a committee consisting of James Duane, Nathaniel Folsom, and James Madison on May 11, whose recommendations were reported and adopted on July 29. See *JCC*, 17:423, 680; *PCC*, item 66, 2:41-44; and Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:51-52.

Huntington also sent a copy of the enclosed "Act" of the 29th under cover of a brief letter to Governor Trumbull this date. Trumbull Papers, Ct.

John Hanson to Philip Thomas

Dear sir, Philadelphia August 4th 1780

I intended to have wrote you fully by Lieutenant Davis, but his Setting out this morning a day sooner than I expected, obliges me to Curtail a little. I may perhaps make you Amends by the next post. I have received yours of the 16 ult. I am greatly distressed on account of yours and Janey's Ill State of health, but hope your next Account will be more favourable. You ought and I hope will especially during this intemperate Season, be very Careful of your self. Doct. Shipping thinks Janey's Case is not dangerous and that Dyet and Exercise will relieve her.

The Account you have given me of my plantation affairs, and the plentiful Crops in general, is very pleasing, the harvest throughout the Country as far as I have heard is very great. No danger of our Armys wanting Bread in future, if Cash Can be found to pay for it, but there lyes the great difficulty, the States must principally be depended on, And they are Extreemly backward in their payments. The want of money will I am afraid embarrass our affairs Exceedingly. Our Army is in motion. A vigorous offensive Campaign in Conjunction with our generous Ally is intended, and little or no money in the Treasury to Carry on its operations, this may retard, but Still I trust we Shall be Enabled to get Along. A million of Dollars is Coming on from Massachusetts, and I hope the other States will be forwarding theirs. In my last I mentioned the Sailing of the British fleet from New York, and that I thought their destination was Rhode

Island, the event has proved, I was not mistaken. They are now lying off Block island, in Sight of Rhode Island, waiting it is Supposed, from the Troops Sent from New York through the Sound, to Co-operate with them. Whether they will be able to Effect their Purpose, which must be the destruction of the french fleet and Army at Rhode Island, time will Shew. General Washington moved with his Army on Fryday last towards the north River, it is probable he has Crost it before this time. The Militia to the Eastward are in motion, the Pennsylvania Militia, Commanded by President Reed are under Marching orders, those of this Town are to March the 10th Instant, and I trust the Troops from Maryland are on their way—in all probability the Campaign will be Bloody. God Send it Successful.

Sammy Expresses a desire of going into practice and Settling at Leesburgh where he thinks there is a very good opening occasioned by the Death of . Let me have your Opinion and if you think it will be to his advantage, you will be Kind Enough to assist in making out a list of Such Medecines as May be immediately necessary with their probable prices and I will purchase them if possible and Send them to Baltimore from whence they may be transported to Frederick. My love to Janney hope the little ones are well and be pleased to present my Compliments to all friends.

With great esteem, yrs.

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Hanson Letters).

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir,

Philadelphia August 4. 1780

I have just Time to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 20 Ultio. with the Despatches therein referred to, this Moment received by Express.

Congress some Time since appointed a Committee to take into Consideration the State of the Southern Department to whom your Despatches are referred.¹

You may be assured Congress will take every measure in their Power to aid that Department, and place the Army under your Command in better Circumstances, as fast as the deranged State of our Finances and the Circumstances will admit.

I have the Honor to be, with very great regard, sir, your most obedient servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (NH: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ JCC, 17:677, 691. The committee had been appointed on July 28. Gates' July 20 letter, discussing his efforts with the governors of Virginia and North Carolina to reconstitute a Continental force in the southern department and requesting "the

immediate re-establishment of a Military Chest in this Department," is in PCC, item 154, 2:214-17. For Congress' response, see Huntington to Gates, August 10, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Jefferson

Sir, Philada August 4. 1780

By return of the Express who has just handed me your Despatches of the 27 Ult^o¹ I have the Honor to inform your Excellency that the several States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania & Maryland have adopted the Act of Congress of the 18 of March and transmitted their Laws on that Subject to Congress some time since. These are all absolute except Pennsylvania, which contains a Proviso similar to that of Virginia now received.

The new Bills have been already forwarded to several of the States at their request, and a Letter from the Governor of Rhode Island informs me the Act of that State on the same Subject will probably pass & soon be forwarded to Congress.

I have the Honor &c, &c, &c,

S. H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ See Jefferson, *Papers* (Boyd), 3:508-13. For Virginia's response to Congress' March 18 resolves on the Continental currency, see also *ibid.*, pp. 531-32, 565-66.

John Mathews to Benjamin Lincoln

Dear sir, Head Quarters Peak's kill, August 4. 1780

I was extreemly mortified in being disappointed of the pleasure I had promised my self in seeing you before your return to the Eastward. However, when I consider my loss in this instance, is produced by your earlier return to those, who had so much better claim to the enjoyment of your agreeable society, I feel a disposition to submit the more cheerfully to my disappointment.

As to news of various kinds, I conclude that is regularly hanted to you, by the number of correspondents you must have this way, therefore any thing from me on this head, must be mere repetition.

I took the liberty of inclosing several letters for Miss Wragg under cover to you, whilst to the southward, I should be much obliged to you to know, whether you received them, & whether you ever had any opportunity of conveying them to her, As they were of some importance to my private affairs there.

I most sincerely congratulate you on your return to your family & friends, after so long an absence.

I am Dr. sir, with much Esteem & respect, Yr. most Obedt.
servt. Jno. Mathews

RC (MH-H: bMS Am 1649.15).

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir, Philadelphia August 5. 1780

By the Act of Congress of this Day herewith enclosed you will be informed of their Designs to concert a Plan for expelling the Enemy from their several Posts in South Carolina and Georgia as soon as Circumstances will admit, which will depend much upon the Event of the intended Operations against the Enemy at New York this Summers Campaign.¹

You will also observe that the Recruits raising in Virginia for their Quota of Continental Troops are ordered to join the Southern Army.²

I have the Honor to be, with very great Respect, sir, your most obedient, humble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (NH: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ JCC, 17:699. Huntington also sent a copy of this resolve this day to South Carolina governor John Rutledge. PCC, item 15, fols. 67-68.

² Huntington also sent a copy of this resolve this day to Virginia governor Thomas Jefferson. PCC, item 15, fol. 68.

Samuel Huntington to Timothy Pickering

Sir, Philada August 5. 1780

Enclosed you will receive an Act of Congress of this Day by which you will be informed that General Greene has refused to act as Quarter Master Genl under the new Arrangement of that Department and that you are elected Quarter Master General.¹

I am perswaded that in this critical Conjecture the Cause of our Country will overrule every other Consideration and incline you to accept this Appointment, and undertake the important Service without Delay.

Congress being under the Necessity of making a new Appointment their Minds have unanimously fixed upon you, and they have judged it proper & expedient on this extraordinary Emergency, that notwithstanding your Appointment you should be continued a Member of the Board of War, with only a Suspension of your Powers & Pay during such Time as you shall continue Quarter Master General; and you have the Rank of Colonel with the Pay & Rations of a Brig-

adier, over & above the Pay and Allowances of the Quarter Master General under the new Arrangement.

I have the Honor to be &c &c.

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ For Nathanael Greene's refusal to continue as quartermaster general "under the new Arrangement" and Pickering's appointment to the post, see *JCC*, 17:680-84, 686, 690-92, 697-98, 700, 702. Pickering's August 7 letter accepting the appointment is in PCC, item 192, fols. 17-19.

Huntington also sent notice of Pickering's appointment in a brief letter to the Committee at Headquarters this day. PCC, item 39, 2:124.

For Pickering's appointment and conduct of his duties as quartermaster general, see Gerard H. Clarfield, *Timothy Pickering and the American Revolution* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980), pp. 65-84.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 5, 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed two Acts of Congress of this Day. By the one you will be informed that Colonel Pickering is appointed Quarter Master General.

The other respects the Southern Department.¹

You will please to observe it is the Sense of Congress that the Land and naval Forces, as well of his most Christian Majesty, as of these United States, or such Part thereof as the Commander in Chief shall think necessary, be employed in the Manner, and at the Time that shall appear to him most convenient, for the Expulsion of the Enemy from their several Posts in the States of South Carolina & Georgia, and that your Excellency concert with the Officers commanding the Fleet and Army of his most Christian Majesty, the proper Measures for this Purpose, and carry such Measures into Execution, *so as not to interfere with any Plan of Operations formed against the Enemy, as the more immediate Objects of the present Campaign.*

You are also fully authorized, if you shall judge it necessary, to concert with the proper Officers and Ministers, such Plans of Operation to be under taken by any other of his most Christian Majestys Forces, or by the Forces of his Catholic Majesty, in the West Indies, or Louisiana, or elsewhere, as may either immediately, or in their Effect, facilitate, or assist the proposed Enterprize.²

Congress will, so soon as they receive proper Information, make the necessary Requisitions from the States, for Supplies, and afford every other Aid and Assistance in their Power, for promoting, and effectually prosecuting the Undertaking.

I am sensible that this proposed Enterprize, from our present Circumstances will in your Opinion very much depend on the Event of the intended Operations of the present Campaign.

By this Act you will also observe, that the Recruits now raising in Virginia for filling up their Quota of Continental Troops are ordered to join the Southern Army.

I have the Honor to be, with every Sentiment of Respect & Esteem, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington's letters to Timothy Pickering and to Horatio Gates, this date.

² JCC, 17:699. See also Huntington's first letter to La Luzerne of August 12, 1780.

John Mathews to Samuel Huntington

Sir, Head Quarters Peekskill Augt 6. 1780

By a private letter I this day received from a Member of Congress,¹ I am informed that a report of a Committee then lay before Congress, in which it is recommended to accept the Quarter Master Generals resignation.² Convinced from long experience that the decisions of Congress are not very rapid, tho on matters of the last importance, I am induced to address myself to you on this subject, hoping it may reach you before the final decision of this business.

Although alone (necessarily so by Mr. Peabody's indisposition and absence at Morris Town, and General Schuylers call to Albany on his private business) yet I conceive it my duty to give every information to Congress where, in my opinion, the interest of the United States, is intimately concerned. That it is so in the present case, must be evident to every unprejudiced man, who will take the trouble to think a little. The late movement of the Enemy towards Rhode Island, rendered it necessary for our army to move. How could this have been effected, without the immediate, and particular superintendence of the Officers of the Quarter Master Generals department? Circumstances have rendered it necessary for this Army again to take post in the Jerseys. The same question again arises—But allowing that on the resignation of the head of this Department, another Officer was ready to step into his place, is it reasonable, is it consistant with Common-sense, to suppose that in a Department so complex, so diffuse as this is, a man can be found capable of acquiring a competent knowledge of the business in a days time (for there is not a day, in the present situation of affairs, but it is indispensibly necessary) so as to be enabled to discharge this great trust, either with honor to himself, or to the interest of these states. I believe human genius is incapable of such an exertion. It may be said, it is not the whole Department that is meant to be displaced, but only the head of it, and there are other Offices now in it, well acquainted with the business, some one of whom, may be induced to take it up, and go on

with it. But I think I can with some degree of confidence assert, that for the same reasons the present Quarter Master General offers to quit it, no other officer now in it, capable of the trust, will accept it; on the contrary, no other reason induces such to continue in it; but a continuance of the head of the Department; Add to this, the apparent suspension of the system of the 15th Ult. [let it be remembered that in this department, is included the forage, the Waggon, and the artificers] annihilate it, and I would be glad to know, how your Army is to march one mile? Without a head a body is an useless trunk. That this whole department must be thrown into the most irreclaimable confusion (I mean for this Campaign) and rendered totally useless for the remainder of it, should Congress either accept the resignation of the present head of it, or persist in its being conducted under the system of the 15th Ult, I will undertake to pronounce with the most decisive confidence. It may be asked, whether Congress are to be dictated to, by their Officers? I answer without hesitation, that on the present occasion they must; necessity compel them to it, and it is a duty they owe their constituents, not to suffer punctilio, to militate against their essential interests. If there are men in the great council of this nation, capable of such a conduct—I will not say what I think are their deserts. I have mentioned that displacing the Officers in the Quarter Masters Department at this time; must militate against the welfare and interests of these states—as thus—The Eyes not only of our Country, but of all Europe are turned on America, and impatiently wait the Issue of the present Campaign. The consequence resulting from its being a successfull one, on the contrary, every member fit to hold a seat in Congress, may easily enough determine, from the flattering expectations held up to this country, of rendering the present—With the divine support—a decisive Campaign. The states have been called on to make very extraordinary exertions. Almost all of them have gone great lengths, and are still pursuing the most vigorous measures, to attain this very desirable end. Some of them under considerable disadvantages, so much so, as will greatly debilitate them, and render their future exertions extremely difficult. Under these circumstances, suppose our army was to be arrested, at the place of their next encampment, and not be in a capacity to move from thence, during the remainder of the Campaign, for the want of proper Officers to put it in motion? (That this will be the case appears to me beyond a doubt, if it is to depend on a new sett of Officers). How then, are the people of this country, to be recompenced for the extraordinary burthens they have subjected themselves to? Who will undertake to satisfy their discontent, the natural result of so greivous a disappointment, and caused by so impolitic a measure? Thus it evidently appears to me, Sir, that an adoption of the Report I have alluded to, will produce a total derangement of this Department, consequently put an end to the Campaign—render us

in the Eyes of all the world more contemptible than any people that ever existed. And we shall be branded with the epithet of mere pretenders to the blessings of liberty: But, Mr. President, permit me to call the attention of Congress to another consideration. Remember the Gentlemen at the head of your Army—much is due to him. Remember the sacrifices he has made of his domestic ease and felicity, and is daily making of his private interest in the service of his Country, in one of the most laborious stations, that almost any man ever encountered with the fortitude and success that he has hitherto done, whose extraordinary merits require not my pen to enumerate. For Gods Sake! have some regard to his feelings; and do not reduce him to the sad dilemma, which this step must inevitably do, and oblige him at once to relinquish every hope of rendering the least service to his country. This would be cruelty to him, and injustice to America.

I have Sir, with freedom written my sentiments, on this subject, such as becomes me as a member of Congress, and a man who feels the Welfare of his Country far dearer to him than every other consideration in life. My present situation enables me to take a more comprehensive view of this business, than it is possible for other Members of Congress to do, confined as they are to a single spot, removed at the distance of One hundred & fifty miles from the Army; therefore more competent to give proper information on the subject.

I have done my duty to my Country—Congress will judge for themselves, and let future events determine the fitness or unfitness of their decision.³

I have the honor to be, With the highest Respect, Your Excellency's
Most Obt. Humble Servant, Jno. Mathews

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Benjamin Brown and signed by Mathews.

¹ Not found.

² For the acceptance of Nathanael Greene's resignation, see Ezekiel Cornell to Greene, July 29, 1780, note 2.

³ This letter was read in Congress on August 11 and later that day the committee was discharged, for which see Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, August 12, 1780.

Isaac Motte to William Drayton

Dear Sir,¹

Philadelphia 6 Augt. 1780.

Since the Surrender of Chas. Town, I bent my course towards this Place & arrived here the 1st of last month. I shall remain here for some months to come—till I can fix upon a Plan so as to get my Family to me. I fortunately escaped being made a Prisoner but was obliged to leave Mrs. Motte & our little ones behind, not having it in my power to bring them off with me. They are with Mrs. Brough-

ton, my Mother in Law, and were well last month. I have suffered exceedingly in this Contest, having lost the greatest part of my Estate, but I hope 'ere long to be in a way of providing for my Family—at present I am much reduced.

Your Son Jacob is hearty & well, he is with his Uncle Stephen at Williamsburgh in Virginia. They were as lucky as myself in not being made Prisoners. Your Brother is fond of him and has taken him under his protection. He is now very able to assist him, having had a very lucrative Place for some time past.

My Brother Jacob and all my Relations (except Mr. Dart) who is here, are Prisoners.

I wrote to you some Months ago, if you cou'd possibly make it convenient to yourself, that you wou'd oblige me very much, to pay into the hands of Mr. John Nutt, Mercht. in London, the amount of an Order I drew on him, when I was in England last (say in Octr. 1774) in favour of Luke Kendall. I think it was for £250 Sterlg. & the Interest due thereon.

This Money was lodged in Mr. Nutt's hands for the use of my Brother in Law—Billy Smith and I was under the necessity of making use of it before I cou'd leave London, having been disappointed in Remittances from home. You will oblige me very much, if you'll settle this matter for me and take a special rect.

I know the Young Gentleman must want the Money and I have no other way of paying him, but thro' you. If you shou'd see him, please give my affectt. Love to him and tell him, that I've received but one Letter from him since I came to America. Let him know his Sister & other Relations were well, when I heard last from that Country.

I must request of you to give me leave to draw on you for the Balance of your Note to me. The Principal is near five hundred pounds Sterling & six Years & Upwards Interest due on it. As this is the greatest dependence I have for my present support, I hope you will accommodate me, if you can. Was I not circumstanced as I am, you wou'd never have heard from me on that subject, but I'm now really in want of it. I have another favor to ask of you and which I am sure you will not take amiss—it is to make some Memorandum with respect to yr. Note. You must know 'tis out of date and in case of accidents, 'tis necessary to do something to make it valid. Excuse all this trouble & be assured it gives me great pain to be under the necessity of giving it to you. My situation is very different to what it was a few Years ago. I have much to say to you, but prudence tells me to be silent at present. Shou'd you meet with Mr. John Clampuson Mercht. in London (he formerly lived with Mr. Rd. Shubrick) I shou'd be obliged to you, to inquire of him, if he has received any more Money on my Acct. from Richd. Grubb's Estate & how much & acquaint me therewith, that I may draw for it.

I hope you're happily settled with your young Folks and have ob-

tained a Place so as to make you live comfortably the remainder of your days. I shall be very happy to hear from you, so let me beg of you to embrace the first opportunity that offers. Please direct for me to the care of The Honble. Henry Laurens at Amsterdam & he will forward the Letters to me. I must now conclude with my most Affectte. Love & many good wishes to yourself & the Young folks and am, Dear Sir, your very affectte. Friend, Isaac Motte

P.S. Pray give my Love to Mrs. Temple when you [have] an opportunity. I have wrote several Letters to her since her Marriage but have not received any in answer to them. I suppose she has long since heard of the death of her Father.

RC (ScU: South Caroliniana Library).

¹ William Drayton (1732-90), who had been Chief Justice of East Florida until 1777, was Motte's brother-in-law and a cousin of former delegate William Henry Drayton. He was living in London at this time and did not return to South Carolina until 1783. Walter B. Edgar, et al., eds., *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974-), 2:205-6.

Nathaniel Peabody to Josiah Bartlett

Dear Sir,

Morristown, Augt. 6th. 1780.

I have been lately favoured with your letter of the 13th May last,¹ (it went to Philada. and I found it on its Journey back to the Eastward) acknowledging my letters of the 8th of Feby., and 17th of March, last. Since which I have wrote you two very long letters,² respecting various subjects; in one I inform'd you of my being unexpectedly appointed one of a Committe to a most disagreeable, Arduous service, And requested you to Continue to write me as often as possible, And promised in return, to give a line as frequent as my Circumstances would by any means permit.

And you will readily Judge, that the business assigned the Committe has been more than sufficient to occupy the Greatest mind, And engross the whole Attention. It has not been for want of true and real regard, to you, and many others, that I have not wrote much oftener. For some time past, I have Scarce wrote once a month to my family.

I Cannot omit observing the manner in which your letter is concluded, You Say, "I am without quitting old friends for New" &c, which mode of expression being to me New, I am entirely at a loss what Ideas were meant thereby to be Conveyed—for I Never intimated, or even had a Single thought that you had so done. But if it is meant to imply a Charge, I am Still in more than threefold darkness about the matter, as I am totally ignorant which part of my Conduct could warrant the suggestion, more especially with respect to You,

Sir, in particular. However it is now time to begin my letter. I have been in Camp from the latter end of April last, till since Mr. Emery retur'd home,³ during which time the Army underwent Several Changes; They know what it is to want, but Not to abound.

I have seen them inviron'd in almost every Species of distress. Though things begin to look a little more favourable. The Army increases fast, and a tolerable prospect, all Circumstances Considered, of Supplies. But I am not without Great Anxiety for the *Event* of this Campaign. There are many contingencies on which the fate depends.

Beside which there are, generally found, men in the Councils of every Nation, And People, who find means under some plausible pretext or other, to render the best Concerted plans Abortive. Can we suppose the councils of America more virtuous, or, her *plans* less vulnerable than those of other Nations?

Whenever anything decisive, And important is set on foot; designing men will always find out a Diana, or some other favourite Goddess, in danger, And under her banners, with Great Zeal, Alarm *even* the honest and well meaning among the Citizens, and excite them violently to appose the Measure. Such envious Zeal, and Malevolent practices, ensure to the authors great Confidence and applause, not only from the devotees to the invaded Goddess, but many well meaning Citizens who Suffer themselves to be led blindfold—by their Machinations! This my friend is a Lamentation, And Shall be had for a Lamentation!

Johnsons Golden shrines, may have made proselites to his Master.⁴ Who knows the power of Gold? You, and I, my friend, have not had the Chance of knowing by Diabolical experience—if we had, I will Venture to assert, it would not have influenced us in the manner, I have but too much reason to believe it has some others— in whose power it is to do us much harm.

America has it in her power speedily to put an End to this Cruel, & bloody War. If it is not done, ought there not to be an enquiry who has been the means of procrastinating, the happy hour of peace & Independence?

I once read of a people, who were at times led by a Cloud; And I have known of a people whose *Grand Multiform'd Sanhedrin*, were often times in the midst of a Fog.

You will Judge how dissimilar their Situations. I see a Fog, or Cloud, rising with a *fire* in the midst, which, if not soon dispeld, and extinguished, Will in all probability greatly distress the Army, if not totally mar the proposed operations of this Campaign!

The only object we can now have in view, must be to raise and Establish an *Army*, for the *War*.

Which must be done upon a permanent basis. The terms must be both honourable, and profitable.

Can we expect men any longer to encounter every species of hardship, and danger, to fight our battles, without a prospect of some other reward, than Cold, hunger, poverty, and disgrace?

The raising of men by draft, or otherwise, for short terms has been found burthensome to the Citizen, And ruinous to the Army.

We have always two Armies to feed, and pay. Vast numbers Continually Comming, and *Going*; which Sad experience has taught us, Serves only to take off the honest husbandman from improving his farm, Lessen the Produce of the Earth; Exhaust Your Treasury; Destroy your *Army*; Waste your ammunition; Expend the magazines of provision; Greatly *increase* the *Necessity*, but *diminish*, the Means, of *Transportation*.

In Short it deranges every System, and renders Calculations altogether uncertain.

Upon this Mode of proceeding, You Can Never have an Army in the field, by any means, proportionable to the Expence, or adequate to the indispensable demand of the Service.

For all this enormous toil and expence, What have we in return? A few raw undisciplin'd troops raised for a short period; by the time they are inured to a Camp life, And with great fatigue, to the offices, and expence to the united States, a little disciplin'd, and become in a degree martialists, Capable of rendering Service, the terms for which they were inlisted expire!

The Army derives but very little additional Strength from such recruits.

Such aid must nevertheless be Sometimes Call'd forth, in Cases of urgent Necessity, but as auxiliaries only. They must not be too much depended on.

The Cause deserves other means for Support. America has it in her power to furnish those means.

The exigencies of the time, renders it indispensable. For was it possible, in the nature of things, that our Cause could be a little longer Supported in this way, without hazarding the loss of our Allies; The increase of our Enemies; And Missing the Golden opportunity for *Establishing* our Independence. The resources of the Country would be incompetent for the purpose. The mines of Peru would Scarce Supply your Treasury. The Community Could not long indure it.

Can we, upon rational Grounds, expect to pursue the War with *Vigour*, And Success, or to Negotiate a peace to advantage, while in our present Labyrinth?

Our enemies, foreign and *domestic*, fully Comprehend our situation. They know where we are vulnerable, and where Not. Can we expect New friends will rise up to our Support?

Let us but have an army in the field, upon a proper establishment, Such as the nature and importance of the Service Absolutely de-

mand—And America fully capable to furnish—And my life on the issue, Such decisive measures being pursued on our part, other Nations Convinced we are determined to be *free*, will step forth to our Aid, and Check the Careers of our Enimies; which will Compel them *within*, and without, at *home*, and abroad, instantly to relinquish all pretensions of Conquest—And to Sue for *peace*, almost on *our own Terms*.

The whole dependence of our Enemy, for Success, has not for a long time been on the real weakness of America, but upon ruining our finances, which is well nigh Completed, And on our not having an Army, properly established in the field.

It might not be improper to observe in this place, that the usual Calculations in all Armies, are, that a much Greater proportion of men die by sickness within the first four months of their entering a Camp life, than for four Years after that term is expired.

It might also be observed, that the usual disparity in pay, given to persons who turn out for a Short time, And to the regular Troops, Cannot fail to impress the most disagreeable Ideas among those who are engaged during the War.

But why should I trouble you thus much, with my thoughts upon a matter with which you are So fully acquainted, especially, as I am sure your knowledge of public affairs, and daily Observation, must suggest to your mind Ideas more adequate to the subject in question. If I have been unguarded in expressing my Sentiments, Your Candour will impute it to Zeal, and not to a want of rectitude of intention.

I cannot Conclude, without mentioning the high sense I entertain of the honor and merit due to that State, for its decisive and Spirited exertions, at this Critical, and Alarming Juncture—it is confess'd by many that not another State in the Union, has a Claim to higher, if there is one, to equal merit, with the State of New Hampr. upon this occasion.

It is, at present, my fix'd determination, that nothing but a want of health shall prevent my coming home in all September. I have been in this place about a week, in hopes that a little relaxation from business, may aid in restoring me to a tolerable State of health. At present, my Situation is rather unfavourable. In addition to the pulmonic Complaint I formerly had, behold a hectic *grins* me *full* in the face, And tho. my pale front, at this time, is less brazen, than usual, Yet I am fully determin'd to parry the insults, and baffle the assaults of that Grim Tyrant.

You will please to make my best Complements to Mrs. Bartlett, And to the President, And Gentlemen of the Council of Safety.

I am Dear Sir, with Great truth, your Sincere friend, most obedient and very Humble Servt,

Nathl Peabody

¹ Not found. See Bartlett, *Papers* (Mevers), pp. 281-82n.4.

² Peabody's "two very long letters" have not been found.

³ See Peabody to Meshech Weare, July 25, 1780, note 4.

⁴ An allusion to the attempts of George Johnstone, a member of the Carlisle Peace Commission in 1778, to bribe influential American leaders.

Committee of Congress to the Board of Treasury

Gentlemen

Monday [August 7, 1780]

The Committee to enquire into the causes of the uneasiness &c. in the department of the Treasury, purpose to meet on that Business on Thursday morning next at nine o'Clock in the State House, where they request your attendance.¹

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 62).

¹ This committee had been appointed on July 10 to consider charges made by the treasurer of loans, Francis Hopkinson, against the commissioners of the treasury, William Denning, Ezekiel Forman, and John Gibson. The committee had just submitted recommendations to Congress to resolve an older dispute between Hopkinson and the commissioners of several months duration, and Hopkinson's July 6 letter to the committee containing these new "Complaints" represented a considerable escalation of the dispute, which now took on a more formal character, and dragged on for months.

Furthermore, the response of the commissioners to this routine letter was far from ordinary, for they refused to appear at the inquiry and hinted that the committee was not authorized to undertake such an investigation. This surprising refusal seems to have hinged on two points: "that they [the commissioners] have never been served with any resolution of Congress setting forth any uneasiness &ca to be enquired into," and that any such investigation would have to be conducted at the board's quarters rather than at the committee room in the State House.

Not surprisingly the committee pressed on with their work, and on Thursday morning the tenth sent the following second notice to the commissioners: "The Committee of Congress, to whom is referred the Letter from the Treasurer of Loans respecting the Board of Treasury and the uneasiness & ca in that department, inform the Commissioners of the Treasury, that they are now met in the Committee Room of Congress at the State House on that business, of which timely notice has been given to all the parties concerned. In case the Commissioners do not attend, the Committee must proceed ex parte."

In view of the commissioners' obstruction of the committee's work, it is little wonder that the committee subsequently recommended that Forman and Gibson be replaced, as well as the treasury board's secretary, Charles Lee. However, when its report was taken up on September 9, a motion was adopted to have it recommitted, and eventually the committee proceeded to hold eight hearings in October and four in November before finally concluding that nothing less than placing the direction of the treasury under the direction of a single executive officer would be required to eliminate the "Demon of Discord" that pervaded the department. The committee had originally consisted of Samuel Holten, William Churchill Houston, and Thomas McKean, but on July 31 Timothy Matlack and John Walker were added "in the room of Mr. Houston and Mr. Holten, who are absent." See *JCC*, 17:585, 597-98, 683-84, 779-80, 18:814, 1091-92; and PCC, item 62, fols. 375-80, 395, 450-51, item 78, 12:39-44. For the

background of Hopkinson's feud with the commissioners, see Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene, July 9, 1780, note 3. For the subsequent efforts of the committee in October and November to resolve the controversy, see Treasury Inquiry Minutes of Proceedings, October 9, 1780.

John Hanson to Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Dear Sir

Philadelphia Augt. 7th 1780

I am much obliged to you for your favour of the 1st Instant. Your information respecting the Spirited Conduct of our State, gives me the highest Satisfaction, and hope to have the pleasure of seeing our new raised Battalion on their way to Camp in a short time.

Wednesday the 26th General Clinton with the principal part of his Army embarked, and proceeded up the East River as far as Huntington Bay, on an Expedition Against Rhode Island. General Washington with his Army Crossed the north River to Peekskill the 29th, and Joined our Troops there, with intention as he says, in his letter to Congress of the 3d instant, to have Attacked New York, had the Enemy proceeded to Rhode Island—in Consequence of this move Sir Harry thought proper to return the 31st. General Washington informs, that he should recross the North River with his Army, the 4th, and proceed to Dobbs's ferry. This he says he is induced to do, to save the forrage in the neighbourhood of Peekskill, as they have occasion for it some time hence. The Enemies Sudden return I think pretty Clearly evinces their Weakness—that they have not men Enough to attack Rhode Island, and leave at the same time a Sufficient Garrison at New York, for the defence of that place. The British fleet lyes off Newport, and tho Superior to the french, has attempted nothing—perhaps their design in staying there is to intercept the 2d Division of the french fleet. The New England Militia it is Said are Comeing in fast, those of this State are under Marching orders, and the militia of this Town are to March Thursday next, the whole to be Comanded by President Reed. From present Appearances our Army will in a Short time be very formidable, And if nothing happens to prevent a Juncture of the intended reinforcement of the french fleet at Rhode Island, it may be reasonably hoped, that the Issue of the present Campaign will be glorious for the united States of America; nothing will prevent it, but the want of money—little or none in the Continental Treasury, and the States pay in very Slow indeed.¹

I Sent 1700 Dollars by Mr. Redgate inclosed in a letter to you and directed to the Care of Mr Al. Contee mercht. in Baltimore which I hope you have received. My Compliments to your Father and the Ladies. And hope Mrs Carroll will Succeed to the Utmost of her Wishes in the laudable Business She is at present engaged in.

I am with much regard D sir your most hble Servt.

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Carroll Papers).

¹ Hanson also repeated the information in this long paragraph in a letter of this date to his son-in-law Philip Thomas, to which he added the following concluding paragraph.

"I Know of no one in Lancaster that would be proper to employ to Sell George. I hope you have got him before this time and would advise you by all means to get rid of him, he will be more plague to you than he is worth. Hope to hear from you by the next post, my love to both families and Compliments to my neighbours." Gratz Collection, PHi.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir

Philadelphia Augt 7th [1780]

Your packet directed to the Delegates was delivered by Mr Green Who also delivered us a Letter respecting the money to be emitted to which due attention will be paid and every assistance given to Mr Green in our power.¹ I think there is but little Chance of Selling the Tobacco here to any advantage, Tobacco delivered here Sells very high, but no purchasers that I can hear of Yet, that will take it anywhere Else.

I have the pleasure to inform you that Congress yesterday received a letter from General Washington dated the 3d Instant Acquainting that General Clinton had proceeded With the principal part of his Army, as far up the East River, as Huntington Bay, on an Expedition against Rhode Island, but that he had returned Again. Immediately on Clintons embarkation, General Washington Crossed the north River with his Army, with intention if the Enemy proceeded to Rhode Island, to Attack New York but as Sir Harry had thought proper to return General Washington Writes that he Should recross the north River with his army the 4th and proceed to Dobbs's ferry, and this he says he is induced to do, to Save Forage in the neighbourhood of Peekskill Which he may be in want of Sometime hence. The Sudden return of the Enemy I think Clearly evinces, their weakness. That they have not men Enough to send to Rhode Island, and at the Same time leave a Sufficient Garrison at New York for the Defense of that place. The Enemies fleet are Still lying off Rhode Island And tho Superior to the french they have attempted nothing. Perhaps their Continuing there may be with design to intercept the 2d Division of the french fleet. From present Appearances our Army will in a short time be very formidable, and Should nothing happen to prevent A Junction of the intended reinforcement of the french fleet at Rhode Island, the Issue of the present Campaign will I think be most glorious for America. Nothing will in all human probabillity prevent it but

the want of money. The Continental Treasury is Exhausted, And the States pay in very Slow indeed. The press begins upon our part of the new money tomorrow, So that you may expect to have it Shortly. The Treasury Board who has had the direction of this Business, has been most Shamefully negligent.

Shall be particularly Attentive to your Chariot and be pleased to present my compliments to Mrs. Lee and let her know, that her slippers is not done—but will Send them down by the next Post, the man Says they are Cut wrong, and that he Shall be obliged to Cut and bind them over again. If Mrs. Lee wants Any more made, he recommends her Sending up the Stuff with an old Shoe. With Sentiments of the highest esteem, I am Dear Sir, Your Excellencys most humble Servt,

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ The Maryland Council's July 31 letter to its delegates requesting their assistance in behalf of Frederick Green in obtaining paper and plates for printing new currency pursuant to a Maryland act of July 5, is in *Md. Archives*, 43:243-44.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 7. 1780

I have the Honor to transmit your Excellency the enclosed Extract of Intelligence just come to Hand.

My Informant who brought me this Intelligence adds, that, the whole Number of Troops which sailed from Martinique for Jamaica were 16,000 That Monsr de Bougainville mentioned as about to sail for America must be understood from France, the Account having reached Martinique.¹ With every great Respect, I have the Honor to be, your Excellency's most obedt. servant,

Sam. Huntington

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ The enclosed extract, dated "Martinico the 7th July 1780," is in the Washington Papers, DLC. Huntington also sent another copy of it under cover of a nearly identical letter to the Committee at Headquarters this day. PCC, item 39, 2:122-23. Huntington's informant had reported that 12 Spanish ships of the line and 13,000 troops had recently arrived at Martinique and had just set sail for Jamaica accompanied by the French West India fleet under comte de Guichen and several detachments from the Martinique garrison, to be joined en route by "a considerable Body of Forces" from Havana.

Joseph Jones to George Washington

Dear Sr. [August 7? 1780]¹

Your Letter to Col. Harrison turns out as I expected before I

received your full information.² If the whole had been read and attended to it was impossible to put any other construction on your manner of treating the Subject than to convince your correspondent of the absolute necessity of great exertions this Campaign, while we had a promising prospect before us, least by remissness and delay we should find our ally as well as ourselves embarrassed with greater difficulties than at present, and I very sincerely wish, should this Summer pass away without some signal advantage gained on our part we may not find your conjectures verified in event. I have my hopes we shall yet be able to do something important upon the arrival of the French reinforcement as I presume their Fleet will then command the Water without which I confess I have no sanguine expectations. With the command of the Water the enterprise may be successfull. Mr. Bingham has recd. a Letter from Martinique informing him the combined Fleets fell to Leeward on the 5th July supposed for Jamaica thirty three or thirty six ships of the line and 12000 Troops. They expected a reinforcement of a few thousand Troops more. If this account be true it is probable Jamaica will fall and that we may have them along our Coast. You are desired by some late resolutions to turn your thoughts towards the recovery of S. Carolina & Georgia as soon as the operations of the Campaign in this quarter have been executed. Gates's and De Kalbs Letters represent the distresses of the Southern department in a very gloomy light as to provisions and equipment. The Virga Recruits when raised are ordered to join that army—if this interferes with your plans you should let us know it as they will not be ready to march untill the begining of next month. The Law past by the Legislature will probably bring into the Field about 3000. A Colonel or Major Pinkney of South Carolina writes Col. Motte a Delegate of that State that the Enemy are not more than 2500 strong at their Posts in the Country exclusive of Horse of which they have a strong Corps and about 800 or 1000 men in Charles Town—of our 2500 Militia not above 1500 had reached Hillsborough in N. Carolina but Mr. D Jameson of the Virga. privy Council writes us that many of the Deserters had been taken up and sent forward to Hillsborough. Caswell had abt. 1200 Militia under him. Baylors and Blands Dragoons nearly equipt so that if they can get provisions sufficient and forage wch. by this time it is probable they are furnished with they will be in condition to face the Enemy and I hope drive them into the Town.

We have been greatly perplexed the last Week with General Greenes refusal to act in the office of Quarter Master General unless the New System was totally repealed and he was allowed to conduct it under your direction in such manner as he thought most conducive to the public Service besides Congress were to *request* Pettit & Coxe to resume their Offices. If Genl. Greene thought the New System wanted amendment and had pointed out the defect Congress woud.

have considered the matter and I Doubt not woud. have made the necessary alteration. But the manner of these demands made in such peremptory terms—at the moment of action when the Campaign was opened, the Enemy in the Field and our ally waiting for Cooperation has lessened Genl. Greene not only in the Opinion of Congress but I think of the Public—and I question whether it will terminate with the acceptance of his refusal only. On Saturday Col. Pickering was appointed to the Office of Quarter Master General with the Rank of Colonel & the pay and Rations of a Brigadier General and to hold his place at the Board of War without pay or right to act while in the office of Quarter Master General. This Gentlemens Integrity, Ability and attention to Business will I hope not only prevent the evils to be apprehended from a change in so important a Department at this time but will I hope be able to reform some of the abuses crept into that Business and lessen the amazing expenditures of the Department. He must if he accepts have a disagreeable office in the present State of our Finance but we must support him all we can. The promotion I lately mentioned has not taken place though if we take up the Business I suppose it will be done as M.³ is the oldest Colonel and Gates is the only Major General belonging to Virga. and the State has a right to two but I see no occasion of stirring in it at present as if taken up it must be upon the general principle of promotion and then not only Virga. but Maryland and other States will expect to partake of the same privilege of bringing forward their officers—when I believe there are few States whose lines are so full as to justify the promotions. I am, Dr. Sr., Yr. aff hum. Servt,

Jos. Jones

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ This undated letter was probably written on Monday, August 7. Although Congress received Timothy Pickering's acceptance of his appointment as quartermaster general this day, which Jones was unaware of when he wrote this letter, Jones refers to Pickering's August 5 appointment as having taken place "on Saturday," rather than "yesterday"; and the intelligence from Martinique mentioned by Jones was apparently received by President Huntington this day, for which see the preceding entry; and *JCC*, 17:702.

² For Washington's letter to Benjamin Harrison, speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, see Jones to Washington, July 18, 1780, note 2.

³ That is, Daniel Morgan, whose promotion to brigadier general is discussed at *ibid.*, note 1.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Sir

Philadelphia August 8th. 1780.

I had the honour to receive your Excellencys letter, of the 22nd Ult., by yesterdays post. I immediately, communicated the contents,

to Congress. It was refered to the Board of Treasury, for them to consider, and report what, could be done, As they are supposed, to be masters, of our Finances. I shall do every thing in my power, to obtain a speedy determination.¹ And as soon as obtaind I shall loose no time, in transmitting the same to you. It is with concern I inform you, I have it not in my power, to give you any encouragement, that you will receive any releif from Congress. I can only add they have it not in their power, to grant releif on any one application for money, let the sum be ever so small.

I mentioned to you some time since, that general Greene, had declined serving as Q M General, which was accepted after near a weeks altercation. And Colo. Pickering, was appointed to that place, with the rank of Colo., and pay of Brigd. General.

I have been alarmed for Several days past, by a prevailing report, that Sr. Harry Clinton was gone to Rhode Island, with a formidable land force, to attack that place. The alarm hath now ceased. General Washington informed us yesterday, that Sr. Harry with the Troops under his Command, had returned to N. York; after waiting several days, in Huntington Bay.²

I have nothing further to acquaint you with worthy of your notice. Congress has not passed any Resolutions, of any considerable consequence except that respecting the QM Genl, since I wrote you last. To enter into a detail, of all the difficulties and embaresments, that attend all our publick measures for want of Money, would only Serve to hurt your feelings. A line from your Excellency at every convenient oppertunity would be gratefully acknowledged by him who hath the Honour to be your Excellencys most obedient and most Humbl Servant,

Ezekiel Cornell

P.S. Since writing the above, an Express hath arived from General Gates, in North Carolina. The accounts from that quarter, are not so favourable as I could wish. The want of money, is equally the same there as here. The want of Provisions is extreamly great in the southern Army, even to that degree that they are with out either Flesh or Bread, living on Vigetables. We are endeavouring to fix, on ways and means, to make more Ample provision, for their suport. I fear you will think I delight, in informing you of only the gloomy, side of our publick affairs. I assure you I should be exceeding happy if truth would justify a different language. The Enemy by the best accounts are in full possession of South-Carolina, and Georgia, with a small part of N. Carolina, beyond Pedee River. Congress is endeavouring to put the Army under General Gates in a situation to be able to confine them to the limits the Genl shall fix.

E. Cornell



Nathanael Greene

¹ For Congress' response to Rhode Island's appeal for relief from the great demands for supplies being made upon it, see *JCC*, 17:708, 731-32, 735-36; and Samuel Huntington to William Greene, August 16, 1780. Greene's July 22 letter is in *PCC*, item 64, fols. 478-81; and Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 296-97.

² Washington's August 3 letter containing this intelligence, which was read in Congress on August 7, is in *PCC*, item 152, 9:69-71; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:318-19.

John Henry to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadela. Aug. 8th. 1780

The reputation of Maryland is high and I am happy to hear that it will still rise in consequence of the completion of our extra Regiment; when will they be ready to come forward?

We shall give all the assistance in our power to Mr. Green, tho I am afraid we shall be under some difficulties in procuring the plates. I wish the devices had not been referred to the delegates. It is out of our way and I wish the Denominations of the Bills may meet with the approbation of yourself and the Council.¹

From information that has been received in this quarter, I have no doubt but the combined Fleets with twenty four Thousand land Troops are gone against Jamaica.

The General and the Army have returned to this side of the N. River and it is a very happy and fortunate Event that his movements called back the Attention of the Enemy to N York. If they had proceeded to attack Rhode Island the General informs us he should have attempted N. York. He is now busily engaged in some preparatory steps towards the accomplishment of the great object of the Campaign. God grant him success. My Expectations are slender.

I am Sir with the highest respect and Esteem, Yrs,

J. Henry

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ See John Hanson to Lee, August 7, 1781, note.

James Lovell to Nathaniel Peabody

Dear Sir

Aug. 8th. 1780

I am sorry you are so unwell.¹ The Post Rider has yr. Boots, or rather has a pair made for Somebody Else but such as Roney thinks must suit you exactly—except the whim of the Gutter Seame, which He thinks could not be trusted to one Journeyman in twenty and nine tenths of the old ones are gone privateering. He will take the

Boots back if they do not suit—but he cannot find other Legs that he would recommend.

You will give your Directions about payment 2 Guineas or the Exchange which is 70 at lowest. I paid a hard Dollar for a Tumbler yesterday because I would not pay 75. Will Col. Pickering be aided as he ought to be or will he be obstructed by a formidable Combination of Malignants *calling* themselves Whigs & Patriots?²

I make no Comment upon the *Necessity* which was imposed upon the Public of a *new Choice*. J L

RC (Nh–Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary War Records).

¹ For Peabody's "unfavourable" health, which confined him to his quarters in Morristown, N.J., see Peabody to Josiah Bartlett, August 6, 1780.

² That is, in his new post as quartermaster general, replacing Nathanael Greene.

John Mathews to Samuel Huntington

Sir, Camp near Clarks town Augt. 8, 1780

I inclose you copy of a letter I received late the last evening from the commissary general.¹

As the State of Pennsylvania must be depended on for the article of flour, and as all communications to that State must now come from Congress, I conceive it indispensibly necessary to give the earliest information, that measures may be taken to prevent another fasting in the Army. Its increase by men unaccustomed to hardships, promises us little hopes, that in its present state, the distresses they lately experienced will be now borne with the same fortitude and resignation, which they then were.

Congress will observe by Mr. Blaine's letter, that the magazine at Trenton is empty. This was the only one the Army had to rely on, and I was in hopes it would have been regularly and amply supplied, from that source which Congress have been frequently told was our great dependance. I could not however give up my hopes, that the flour had been forwarded, and if not at Trenton, it must be at Easton: But on inquiry of Mr Blaine, he informs me he is certain there is none at that place, if there was, he must have known it immediately. Therefore the small quantity in Sussex county, being all the flour the commissary General can at this time command is a circumstance truly alarming.

I shall immediately write to the other States to hasten forward the Cattle.²

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,
Jno. Mathews

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews.

¹ In his August 7 letter, Ephraim Blaine expressed alarm that the "Army is now large and hourly Increasing" and that it was consuming "upward of One hundred barrels of flour and at least Sixty head of Cattle daily." With the Trenton magazine exhausted and no more than eight days provisions in the vicinity of camp, he urged the committee "to Use every means to press the States to Comply with your requisitions, and furnish their respective Quotas punctually." PCC, item 165, fols. 323-25.

² The letter "to the other States" was apparently never written, but for another appeal for provisions, enclosing Blaine's August 15 letter to the committee, see Committee at Headquarters to the States, August 16, 1780.

This letter, with its August 7 enclosure, was read in Congress on August 14 and referred to committee which reported the following day. Congress ordered a copy of Blaine's letter given to the Pennsylvania delegates, who were asked to confer with their executive council and report back to Congress. *JCC*, 17:730, 732-33. For Blaine's previous direct appeals to President Reed and Reed's reply, see *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:479-81, 494-96.

Samuel Huntington to Certain States

Sir,

Philada August 9. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 7th Instant, giving certain Encouragements to Officers & Privates that shall incline to serve as Volunteer Horsemen in the Southern Department in the Army under General Gates; and recommending it to the Executive of the several States from Virginia to Georgia inclusive to encourage the raising Corps of Volunteer Horsemen not exceeding five hundred in the whole, and submitting to General Gates to ascertain the Number to be raised in each of the said States.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15). Addressed: "His Excellency Governor Jefferson. The like verbatim to N. Carolina, S. Carolina & Georgia."

¹ See *JCC*, 17:707-8.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia 9 August 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 7th Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed of the Measure they have adopted, in authorizing Genl Washington to effectuate an Exchange of Officers that are now Prisoners of War, and for supplying the Officers & Soldiers that may remain Prisoners in Captivity—for establishing Commissaries of Prisoners to reside in New York & South Carolina, or Georgia, to have the Care of the Prisoners in those Places—and also for the Encour-

agement of a Corps of Volunteer Light Horse to reinforce the Southern Army.¹

Your Letters of the 27th & 30th Ultio and 3d Instant have been duly received and laid before Congress.²

I have the Honor to be, with the highest Respect, Gentlemen, your most obedt servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For these resolves, see *JCC*, 17:704–8.

² *JCC*, 17:681, 684, 701.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 9. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed two Acts of Congress of the 7th & 8th Instant.

By the former you are authorized to effectuate an Exchange of *Officers*, in the Manner as prescribed in the Act; and also to take the necessary Steps for establishing a resident Commissary of Prisoners at New York.¹

How far either of these Measures may be carried into Execution in the present Circumstances of the Armies your Excellency will be best able to determine.

You will also note the Measures Congress are taking to make Provision for the Subsistence & Comfort of Prisoners that remain in Captivity; also Encouragements given by this Act for engaging a Number of Light Horse to serve as Volunteers in the southern Department during the Campaign, or at least for four Months, unless sooner discharged.

The other Act of the 8th Instant relates to the Case of General Maxwell.²

Your several Letters of the 26th & 30th Ultio, and 3d Instant have been received and laid before Congress.³

I have the Honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,

Saml. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For this authorization concerning an exchange of officers and a resident commissary of prisoners at New York, see *JCC*, 17:637, 700, 704–6. The former was adopted in response to a July 10 letter from Washington arguing that the capture of General Lincoln's army at Charleston required a change in prisoner exchange policy and that for the present such exchanges should be confined to those of "*Officers only*." "The exchange of privates," Washington explained, "would certainly be against us in a political view. It would throw into the Enemy's hands a very respectable permanent augmentation to their present force, already great, while it would add but inconsi-

derably to ours; as no small proportion of the Men we should receive, would not belong to the Army and Many who should at the time, would probably be soon released from it, by the expiration of their Inlistments." Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:148-49.

² The resignation of Gen. William Maxwell had been accepted on July 25, but the issue of his compensation had been referred to the Board of War. In adopting the board's recommendations, Congress simply affirmed that his resignation would have no effect on the adjustment he would be entitled to receive under terms of Congress' resolve of April 10, 1780, pledging to adjust officer pay in keeping with the depreciation of the Continental dollar. See *JCC*, 16:344-45, 17:663, 670, 710-11; *PCC*, item 147, 5:487, item 152, 9:33-38; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:218-19.

³ See *JCC*, 17:681, 684, 701; *PCC*, item 152, 9:65-72; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:260-62, 279-80, 318-19.

Richard Howly to Horatio Gates

Sir, Philadelphia August the 10th. 1780.

It was with a degreee of deep concern, I heard yr. letter of the 20th ultimo, read in congress.¹ However Sanguine the general Expectation, might have been, and the assurance of Success promising: there still remained the operation of circumstances, to work the desired effect. The direction of these depended, not on the General, but on fortune, which in utter contempt of all human opinion, Ever was, & ever will be the great arbiter of human things.

As the arrangements you made for the order of a [. . .] were conducted by wisdom & knowledge, and your Situation Subjected a retreat to much hazard & Peril in the opinion of the general officers, Men of Candor & Justice will approve of your conduct; at the Same time, that they lament, the fatal defection of so considerable a part of the troops under your command, as the militia then were. A defection, which, at a moment So critical to the glory and Safety of their country, has covered them with disgrace and defeat.

However, I am persuaded your Constancy will not give way, and I trust to the Exertions of your well known abilities, to conduct on Some future day, our unexperient'd militia to both victory and honor. The behavior of the men under the command of Genl. Ash at Briar Creek, in March 1779—was attoned for; by their gallant and Spirited Exertions at Stono, in the June following.

We are now engaged in the matter of the Southern Supplies—and falling very fast from the project of the Seige of Newyork for this Season. I believe we Shall turn a respectable force to the Southern operations the Ensuing Winter.

I will beg leave to recommend to your Attention two gentlemen, Col. John Baker, and his brother Major Baker. They are both brave gallant officers, and you will find, Worthy of your Confidence.

I have the honor, to be, With much truth & Esteem, Sir, yr. most
Obedt. & hl. Servt. Richd Howly

[P.S.] I thought it proper to advise Major Magill to stay a day or two longer as probably it would prevent the necessity of Sending an Express.

RC (MH-H: Sparks Manuscripts).

¹ See the following entry, note 3.

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir, Philadelphia August 10. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 7th Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that General Washington is authorized to effectuate an Exchange of *Officers*, Prisoners of War; and also of the Measures Congress are taking for the Subsistence & Comfort of Officers & Privates that may remain Prisoners with the Enemy in these United States.¹

Also that you are authorized to take the necessary Steps for establishing a Resident Commissary of Prisoners in South Carolina or Georgia to have the Care of Prisoners in those Places.

You will further observe the Encouragements offered by Congress in this Act to Volunteer Horsemen in the States from Virginia to Georgia inclusive, to be under your Command, and submitting to your Determination the Number to be raised in each of those States. From the Representations we have received it is hoped a sufficient Number equal to your Wishes may be engaged as Volunteers agreeable to the Terms mentioned in the Act.²

As a further Aid to your military Chest, you will observe the Balance of the Quota of ten Millions of Dollars, required of Virginia by the Act of Congress of the 19 of May last, is appropriated to the Southern Department, and ordered when collected to be sent to you for that Purpose.³

I have the Honor to be, with great respect & Esteem, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (NHi: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See Huntington to Washington, August 9, 1780, note 1.

² See Huntington to Certain States, August 9, 1780, note.

³ JCC, 17:706–7. This August 7 resolve was adopted in response to an appeal contained in Gates' letter to Congress of July 20, for which see Huntington to Gates, August 4, 1780, note.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Sim Lee

Sir, Philadelphia August 10. 1780

I am sorry to inform your Excellency that it is not in the Power of Congress to comply with your request by sending any Ships of Force into the Chesapeake for the Protection of the Navigation there at this critical Juncture.

I have no Doubt your request would have been complied with most chearfully had it been in the Power of Congress.

By the Act enclosed you will see that all the Continental Vessels of Force were preengaged in a most important Service before your Letter was received.¹

I have the Honor to be, with the highest regard, your Excellency's most obedient humble servt, Sam. Huntington President

RC (MdAA: Red Books). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ In a letter of July 28, Governor Lee had instructed the Maryland delegates to request the deployment of a Continental frigate to the Chesapeake for the protection of the state's shipping, which had been suffering from British vessels patrolling the bay. "This State has always contributed to the expence of the Continental Navy," Lee pointed out, "but the State or its Trade has never received any benefit or advantage from the Marine of the United States." The letter had been referred on July 31 to the Board of Admiralty, whose recommendations were adopted verbatim in the enclosed August 7 resolution of Congress. Only four Continental frigates "are or will be ready for sea this season," the board explained, and these had already been placed under the direction of General Washington to enable him to conduct joint operations with the French forces under the command of Admiral Ternay. See *JCC*, 17:682, 702-3; *PCC*, item 70, fols. 415-18; and *Md. Archives*, 43:238.

Huntington's explanation that all the Continental frigates "were preengaged in a most important Service before your Letter was received" was unlikely to have set well with Maryland officials, however, because the legislature's previous appeal for naval protection in June had not been answered. For this June 12 request, which had been referred to the Board of Admiralty on June 19, see *JCC*, 17:526-27; and *PCC*, item 70, fols. 373-80.

John Mathews to the Medical Committee

Gent. Head Quarters Orange Town, Augt. 10, 1780

Dr. Cockran has applied to me as one of the Committee, for some assistance, with regard to Surgeons with the army. There are no more than four Surgeons, & one mate now with the flying hospital, which are barely sufficient to attend the army. The men are daily growing more sickly, & hospitals must necessarily be established for their reception; so that either the sick in the hospitals or in the army (in case of action) must suffer if not speedily attended to. There are now in Philada. Drs. Binney, Smith, Glentworth, Duffield & Jackson,¹ who have no visible employment there, & ought consequently to be

ordered by you to attend their duty in the army otherwise their offices must be deemed mere Sinecures. Dr. Cutting, who is the Ap[othecary] Genl.² is also resident in Phila., therefore a difficulty must arise in procuring the necy. supplies at such a distance from the army. I would therefore submit to you, whether there would not be a propriety, in his establishing a Magazine in some proper place in the State of New Jersey from whence supplies may be drawn With the greater facility, & whither there would not be also a propriety in his attendance at such place. There are likewise in the Northern depart. Drs. Treat, Tillitson, Bartlet, Townsend, Young and McCrea.³ They can have little to do there at pres[en]t. I am informed one is sufficient, then I would submit to you whither the rest ought not to be ordered to attend the army.

The delay in the determination of Dr. Shippens tryal, causes great confusion in this depmt. as [no one] that I can learn, seems to take any direction about it consequently every one does as he pleases. Had that matter been determined, you would have been saved the trouble of the prest. application. As the army at present contains a great many Recruits & from the marches they have lately made in such very severe weather it must naturally be expected the sick will be greatly increased, therefore a considerable quantity of Stores will be indispensibly necessary, & ought to be forwd. without loss of time.

I am gent., with much Respt. & Esteem, Yr. most Obed. Sev.

J. M.

FC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of John Mathews.

¹ That is, Doctors Barnabas Binney, Isaac Smith, George Glentworth, Samuel Duffield, and David Jackson.

² The Apothecary General was Dr. John Brown Cutting.

³ Malachi Treat, Thomas Tillotson, John Bartlett, David Townsend, Joseph Young, and Stephen McCrea.

Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters

Gentlemen,

Philadelphia August 12. 1780

I have been honored with a Letter from the Honorable Mr. Mathews of the 7th Instant in which he mentions two of the Committee were necessarily absent.¹

Congress have judged it unnecessary under present Circumstances that the Committee should continue longer at Head Quarters, and by their Act inclosed of the 11th Instant have discharged them from further Attendance there and ordered that they report their Proceedings to Congress.²

I have the Honor to be, with the highest respect, Gentlemen, your most obedient, humble servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. Endorsed: "Recd. the 21st Inst."

¹ This letter was actually dated the 6th. See *JCC*, 17:719; and John Mathews to Huntington, August 6, 1780.

² Mathews' letter, chastising Congress for failure to appreciate the complexities of army administration and urging deference to General Washington and the quartermaster general, was merely one of many irritating dispatches received from the committee at headquarters, but its arrival demonstrated immediately that the delegates' patience had been exhausted. Long convinced that the committee had become the captive of "camp" psychology, and incensed that Mathews had insisted upon his own superior competence to judge and "take a more comprehensive view" of the army's problems, the delegates immediately voted the committee's recall by a vote of 10 to 2, only New York and South Carolina (i.e., the colleagues of Schuyler and Mathews) opposing the motion. See *JCC*, 17:719-20. For evidence of the hostility that the committee had aroused in Congress, see also Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene, August 15; Whitmell Hill to Thomas Burke, August 20; and John Mathews to Philip Schuyler, August 23, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada August 12. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed Copy of an Act of Congress of this Day, together with the Copy of an Act of the 5 Instant respecting a Plan of Operation to be concerted for expelling the Enemy from South Carolina and Georgia.

You Sir will observe your Influence is desired in Aid of the Measure which may be adopted by the Commander in Chief to carry the same into Effect.¹

I have the Honor &c &c &c,

S. H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ See *JCC*, 17:698-99, 727; and Huntington to Washington, August 5, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada August 12. 1780

I have the Honor to transmit you the enclosed Act of Congress of the 11 Instant, together with a Copy of the Petition of Joseph Basden to which the Act refers.¹

And am with the highest Respect, your most obedient humble
 Servant, S. H.²

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Joseph Basden was captain of a Bermuda ship that had been captured by a French frigate on March 5, 1780, carrying salt from Turks Island for Virginia. In view of the friendship and cooperation that had been maintained between the United States and Bermuda, Basden petitioned Congress on June 26 to intervene in his behalf with French officials for the recovery of his ship and cargo. The petition had been referred to a committee consisting of James Duane, Jared Ingersoll, and James Lovell, who also received a testimonial letter in his behalf from Abraham Markoe, Thomas Burch, and George Haynes on July 27. The committee's report, recommending that the case be referred to the French minister with an endorsement in behalf of "the Situation of the Inhabitants of Bermuda in general," was submitted on August 4, but the enclosed August 11 congressional resolve simply directed that the case be communicated to La Luzerne, omitting any mention of a recommendation. See *JCC*, 17:559, 694-95, 722; and PCC, item 19, 1:213-18, item 41, 1:287-90.

In his August 15 response to Congress, La Luzerne reported that he was referring Basden's case to the authorities at St. Domingue, but he warned that he knew of no agreements that would exempt Bermuda vessels from seizure. PCC, item 95, 1:138-41.

² This day Huntington also transmitted to Pennsylvania president Joseph Reed a petition from one James Boyd, which was received by Congress on the 11th and immediately ordered to be referred to the Pennsylvania Council. *JCC*, 17:719; and PCC, item 15, fol. 75. The subject of Boyd's petition has not been discovered; no copy of it was retained in the PCC.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sir

Philadelphia August 13th. 1780

I had the honour, to receive your favour yesterday, of the 5th Instant. In my last,¹ I mentioned that your letter, was recommitted, they reported the next day. In these words, "That General Greens, refusal be accepted. That General Washington be impowered, and directed, to appoint a Q.M.G. That General Greene be acquainted that Congress have no further service for him." That report was taken up every day, for a Week, but nothing determined. At length it was agreed, to postpone the report for the present. Congress then agreed to make Choice of a Q M G. Colo. Pickering was chosen, with the rank of Colo., and pay of B. Genl. Thus matters rest at present, and I think will, unless some other evil spirit should get among us.

I can assure you Mr. Shearman, hath been your fast friend in the whole of this affair, as well as every member from that State. And among your friends you may recon N. Hamp Shire, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, & some members from some of the other states. Your Enemy's are, or pretend to be exceeding Sanguine, in their expectations of Colo. Pickering's conducting the department with

æconomy. I must confess I more fear his want of abilitys, than the want of Æconomy. At the same time I wish him success.

Before this will reach it is more than probable you will hear that Congress have recalled their Commee. from Head Quarters.² The Measure was become necessary, for Several reasons, Some states were dissatisfied, many members of Congress were displeased with the letters they wrote.

The situation of our finances, is such as to make, every thinking man shudder. The New money, ordered into Circulation, by the Resolution of the 18 of March meets with so many obstructions, I almost dispare of the Credit, it will have in the states that shall Comply with the resolution. If that should fail, good God what will be our fate, without money or Credit at home or abroad? We have not one farthing of Money in the Treasury, And I know of no Quarter, from which we have a right to expect any. Yet we go on Contented, pleasing ourselves with the sanguine hopes of reducing New York. I have seen many new sceens, before I came to this place, But what I have experienced since exceeds any thing I have ever seen before. I never before se a set of men that could quietly submit to every kind of difficulty that tended to the ruin of their Country without endeavouring to make one effort to remove the obstruction. I beleive they wish their Country well but suffer their time almost wholly to be taken up in business of no Consequence.

I am dear Sr., your Humbl. Servt.

RC (DLC: Greene Papers). In the hand of Cornell, though not signed. Endorsed: "From Genl Cornell, Philada. 13th August 1780."

¹ See Cornell to Nathanael Greene, August 1, 1780.

² See Samuel Huntington to Committee at Headquarters, August 12, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Alexander McDougall

Sir, Philada. August 13. 1780

I have the Honor to lay before you the enclosed Act of Congress of the 12 Instant, by which you will be informed of their Proceedings on the Memorial from the General Officers.

Some further Matters were under Consideration for the Benefit of the General Officers their Widows and Children, which are re-committed and I trust will be speedily determined.¹

I am Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem & respect, your most obedient
Servant, S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Although Congress had previously responded to a number of army grievances

related to devastating inflation, it had demonstrated surprising resistance to the demands of the 26 general officers that had been presented the preceding November. A second memorial, dated July 11 and signed by 16 major generals and brigadiers, was taken up by Congress on August 3 with somewhat similar reluctance but a significantly different result, undoubtedly because the subject was presented and kept before Congress at this time by General McDougall, who had been selected to undertake a personal mission to Philadelphia in behalf of the generals.

The August 12 resolves enclosed with this letter were more conspicuous for their rhetoric than substance, however, as Congress emphasized the necessity for continued commitment to "patience and self-denial, fortitude and perseverance, and the cheerful sacrifice to time, health and fortune," invoking "moderation, frugality and temperance" as the foundation of civil government in America. The states were exhorted "to make compensation . . . for the depreciation of their pay," and to provide officer pay and rations in the new bills authorized by the fiscal resolves of March 18, while Congress ordered an advance of two months pay "to relieve their present wants," and promised land grants of 1,100 and 850 acres for major generals and brigadiers who remained in service for the duration or were killed in action. The proposals concerning benefits for widows and orphans that were recommitted at this time were adopted on August 24; additional benefits were added on August 25 and September 7. See *JCC*, 17:689, 725-27, 770-73, 777-78, 811; *PCC*, item 39, 1:148-50, item 43, fols. 259-66; Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda), 3:78-80; Philip Schuyler to Washington, November 18, 1779; and Committee at Headquarters to Huntington, July 23, 1780.

For indications of the delegates' reactions to the generals' petition, see Henry Laurens to Richard Henry Lee, August 1; John Armstrong to William Irvine, August 3 and 17; and James Lovell to Samuel Holten, September 5, 1780. The issue remains poorly documented in the surviving delegate correspondence, but has been ably discussed in Roger J. Champagne, *Alexander McDougall and the American Revolution in New York* (Schenectady, N.Y.: Union College Press, 1975), pp. 157-64.

Nathaniel Folsom to Josiah Bartlett

Sr.

Philadelphia Agust 14th. 1780.

I Recd. your letter of the 13th of May the 10th of June and Should have answered it before now but I have Several Reasons to offer by way of Excuse.¹ One is I have bin alone ever Since about the 20th of April and have not bin absent one hour when Congress were Setting Since my arrival at this Place. The other is the wather hase bin so hot that when out of Congress we have full imployment to find air enough to breathe in. The last is you Seemed to be so angry at the Resolution of the 18th March relative to finance, that I thought I wood let you Cool a little before I Rote again.² When I left Newhampshire the Exchange was about twenty for one and on my arrival at this Place I found it Sixty and before the 18th of March it wase allmost an hundred for one on an average—and had it not bin for that Resolution of Congress which Seemed to make you So uneasy by the middle of May it wood not have Purchest any one thing in the market. This is not my opinion only but allmost every member of Congress—and as you did not go So far as to Say you thought the exchange as fixt wase too high or too lowe, or that it aught or

ought not to be fixt at all, Puts it out of my Power to give you Satisfaction on this Subject.

I Suppose you will expect I Should Say Something about our Public affairs in general as they appear to us who are on the Spot where information of every Kind is most likely to be had. Much, Very much my good frind is Depending in my opinion on this Camp-paine—as the exertions of the Several States are very grate, unless Some important Blow is Struck or Something Decisive is done. I am affraid of the effect it may have on the People at large if Cald upon for the like exertions another year—and the disadvantages we may be laid under if a negotiaton for a Peace Shood take Place is obvious. I Can informe you our genneral Spirits and expectations are Rising, and allso that we expect every day to hear of the arrival of the 2d Division of Ships of War from France—on which Depends in my opinion all our offensive operations.

Yesterday I heard Coll. Peabody was unwell at Morristown. I Shall Set out for home the 20th of September at farthest if I Shood live so long and am able—and Shall expect Somebody to Relieve me by that time or the State will be unrepresented.

The intence hot wather we have had here for a long time Past and Constant Confinement hase brought me Some what low a Ride to the northward I hope will be of Service to me. Be So good as to informe President Weare that there hase bin no Publication of the Prises Drawn in the last lottery as yet, as Soon as there is any I will forward it to him.

Sr. I am with Respect your most Obt. Humbl. Servent,
Nathl. Folsom

RC (NN: Emmet Collection).

¹ Josiah Bartlett's May 13 letter to Folsom is in Bartlett, *Papers* (Mevers), pp. 280-81.

² Explaining the impact of the March 18 congressional fiscal resolve in New Hampshire, Bartlett had reported that "paper bills will not buy more than half or at most two thirds as much as before that Resolve Came to hand and many people will not take them on any account whatever." *Ibid.*, p. 280.

Samuel Huntington to Horatio Gates

Sir,

Philadelphia August 14. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 12 Instant, ordering General Moultrie to make Return of the Commissary of Prisoners that he shall appoint in Charles Town to you for your Approbation.¹

You have also enclosed a Letter to General Moultrie with several

Acts of Congress under a flying Seal. These Papers you will please to peruse, and forward to him as soon as may be.

It is proper to inform you, that the Reason for directing General Moultrie to appoint a Commissary of Prisoners in Charlestown, was because of a Stipulation at the Time of the Capitulation that the eldest Officer among the Prisoners should have that Priveledge granted by the Enemy. Of this we have received full Information.

I have the Honor to be, with much Esteem Sir, your most obedient servant,
Sam. Huntington President

RC (NH: Gates Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ See *JCC*, 17:698, 723; and Huntington to Moultrie, this date.

Samuel Huntington to William Livingston

Sir, Philada August 14. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of the 11 Instant appointing Joseph Borden Esquire Commissioner of the Continental Loan Office for New Jersey, or the Commissioner for the Time being, (or in Case of his Disability) Joseph Kirkebride to sign the Bills of Credit to be issued by the State of New Jersey in Pursuance of the resolution of Congress of the 18 of March last.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c, S.H.²

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The enclosed resolve was adopted "on motion of the delegates for the state of New Jersey." *JCC*, 17:720-21.

² This day Huntington also sent an August 11 resolve to John Bradford, Continental agent at Boston, signifying Congress' approval of his decision to supply tent cloth to the deputy quartermaster general in Massachusetts in response to the latter's requisition. See PCC, item 15, fol. 76, item 78, 3:497-500; and *JCC*, 17:681, 719.

Samuel Huntington to William Moultrie

Sir, Philada August 14. 1780

Your Letter of the 30 of June last hath been received and laid before Congress.

Enclosed you will receive a Copy of their Act of the 5 Instant by which you will be informed of the Sentiments of Congress respecting the Breach of Parole given by any Citizen of the United States as a Prisoner of War to the Enemy.¹

By this Act you will also observe that Capt George Turner is discharged from the Office of Commissary of Prisoners & ordered to deliver to you the Bills of Exchange which were given to him by Genl

Lincoln and you are to deliver the said Bills back to Mr Abraham Livingston taking his receipt for the same and make return of the Amount of the Bills to the Board of Treasury.

You are also authorized to appoint a suitable person to act as Commissary of Prisoners in Charlestown, and you are [to] return the Name of the Person so appointed to Genl Gates, or the Commanding Officer in the southern Department for his Approbation, as you will see by a Copy of the resolve of the 12 Instant herewith enclosed, which renders it needless to return the Name of the Commissary to Congress.²

I am Sir &c &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ In his June 30 letter to Congress, General Moultrie had reported a breach of parole by one of the Americans taken prisoner at Charleston, Justice Henry Pendleton, which had been protested by Lord Cornwallis. The letter was referred to a committee on July 26, whose recommendations were adopted on August 5. By the enclosed resolve Congress announced that when it had been "properly notified" of a breach of parole it would "take such order thereon as the law of nations and the rules of war shall require," and that in the meantime Moultrie should not fear retaliation, as threatened by Cornwallis, against other prisoners who duly observe their parole. See *JCC*, 17:668-69, 686, 697-98; and PCC, item 158, fols. 477-80.

² See *JCC*, 17:698, 723. After General Lincoln's departure from South Carolina, Moultrie had relieved George Turner of his post as deputy commissary at Charleston, pending the approval of Congress. The evidence suggests that Turner had questioned Moultrie's authority, since he had received his appointment from Lincoln, and that Moultrie had summarily dismissed him. See PCC, item 78, 22:477-88, item 158, fols. 477-80.

Roger Sherman? to Oliver Wolcott?

[August 14, 1780]¹

I am sorry to hear that none of the new Bills sent from hence (meaning to Connecticut) are issued; it is of the last importance that they issue immediately; Congress have already drawn upon the Loan Office in Massachusetts for a Sum in those Bills: this must be our dependence, as other Sources fail, and considerable Sums of Money are now wanted. I wish every State would make a vigorous Exertion to bring in their whole Quotas of the old Bills by one Tax—all the States except Delaware and N Carolina have adopted the measure, the Quota for Maryland is now printing.

We had a Letter yesterday from Mr Jay dated May 26th—no Treaty was then concluded, he has had several Conferences with the Prime Minister on the Subject,² who treated him very politely—enquired critically into our civil and military Establishments, the Numbers and wealth of the Country, the Revenues for carrying on the War, what assistance we could afford to Spain therein, and how

we might be otherwise advantageous to her, if a Treaty should take Place—to which he returnd Answers. Mr Jay likewise acquainted the Minister that Congress had drawn bills on him, to the amount of £100,000 Sterling, with the motives, to which he answerd that it was difficult for that Court to provide at this Time for the Payment of them, as they have been obliged to take Money on Loan to carry on the War—but on the whole gave Encouragement for the Payment of Part of the Money, and providing such Security for the remainder as will prevent the Bills being protested: but there is no Encouragement for a further Loan. The Latter was very long and I can't give you an Account on Memory of all the Subjects it contained.

A Comtee. of five is appointed to make Estimates of the further Supplies that will be necessary for the present Year ending the first of next March, and for the ensuing Year, and the means of furnishing them—and another to report the Salaries of the several Boards, Court of Appeals &c.³

Congress has resolved to pay the Army their wages and Subsistence in the new bills from and after the First Day of the present Month—to give each Major Genl. 1100 Acres of land, and each Brigadier 850 Acres at the Close of the War.⁴ Col. Pickering is appointed Q M Genl—the Comtee. at Head Quarters are discharged from further Attendance there and orderd to report their Proceedings to Congress.

Mr Lawrence has embarked for Holland—no very particular Accts. from the Southward. I shall be willing to return home as soon as any Gentleman will come to relieve me.

Tr (CtHi: Wolcott Papers). Captioned: "Extract of a Letter dated Phila. Augt. 14th. 1780."

¹ This date is taken from the caption on the document. Its author and recipient have been conjectured. That Wolcott was the intended recipient has been inferred from its location, as has the assumption that the writer was a Connecticut delegate—who was "willing to return home" as soon as a replacement arrived. Aside from Pres. Samuel Huntington, who certainly had no plans to return home at this time, the Connecticut delegates in attendance were Sherman and Benjamin Huntington, a new delegate who had taken his seat on June 1 and probably would not have articulated plans to leave Congress so soon after his arrival. Finally, Sherman was a member of the committees mentioned at the end of the first paragraph of the document, and had an abiding interest in fiscal issues such as those discussed at the outset.

² Jay's letter is in PCC, item 110, 1:56-177; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:707-34 (excluding foreign language enclosures). This lengthy account of his mission to Spain contained copies of documents Jay had exchanged with Spanish officials and notes on a conference he had had with the foreign minister, Floridablanca, concerning (1) "bills of exchange drawn on him by Congress," and (2) "the treaty in contemplation between Spain and America." Although Sherman is here concerned primarily with the former subject, Congress actually focused on the latter, particularly as Jay had asked for additional "information and instructions," especially "respecting the Mississippi." The letter was immediately referred to the committee for foreign affairs, which recommended on August 21 that Jay's concerns be referred to a separate committee, whose appointment in turn prompted the Virginia delegates to introduce in

Congress instructions on the Mississippi and the West they had received from the Virginia Assembly. The September 2 report of this committee was adopted on October 4, and two days later still another committee was appointed to draft instructions for Jay that were approved on October 17. See *JCC*, 17:727, 754-55, 802, 18:900-902, 908, 935-47; and Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:127-36. See also James Lovell to Henry Laurens, August 15; and Whitnell Hill to Thomas Burke, August 20, 1780.

³ Congress had appointed committees on "ways and means" (Ezekiel Cornell, William Churchill Houston, Timothy Matlack, John Morin Scott, and Sherman), and on salaries for officers of congressional boards and the court of appeals (John Hanson, Houston, and Sherman), on August 11. *JCC*, 17:721, 723.

⁴ For these August 12 resolves, see *JCC*, 17:726-27.

Ezekiel Cornell to Nathanael Greene

Dear Sr.

Philadelphia August 15th. 1780.

I had the pleasure to receive your favour, of the 9th Instant yesterday. I am sensible of the difficultys, the Army labour under, for want of proper supplys, in the QM. Genl department. But I fear a greater difficulty, if possible is near at hand, I mean a general fast through the Army, and that for want of a Supply of provision. That matter now under consideration of a Committee of which I am one,¹ we meet this morning at eight o'Clock, I fear the difficultys are of so stubborn a nature, as to baffle all our efforts. They arise from a complication of Blunders, as well as unforeseen accidents.

I think you have now nearly adopted the opinion, I was of, when at Moristown, concerning publick life. And the more I see, of publick life the more I despise it. The Zeal I shew against adopting the New plan, for regulating the Q.M.G. department, caused the Majority of Congress to treat me with great Coolness, for a considerable time. It hath now intirely subsided, I am now treated with the greatest politeness, and enjoy as great a share of their Confidence, as I can expect, Which leads me to beleive they are sorry they have carryed the matter so far, but their pride will not permit them to retract. I can say no more than that it hath appeared to me from the first, that some thought it necessary to sacrifice, one for the Salvation of the whole, But upon the whole it is my opinion some particular piques, and predujucies excepted, Congress that is every Member, wish well to their Country. But their being so many members and so many different sentiments and to that may be added want of abilty or general knowledge & in attention to business, that it cannot be wondered at, if difficultys arise in carrying on our publick affairs. By the inclosed letter,² you will be informed the Committee are recalled. It is there mentioned as a necessary measure. I believe it to be so, to keep harmony among our selves. Some members were against their appointment, they have never failed to blow the Coal on all Occasions. The Committee have at some times wrote plainly to us, and

pressed our difficultys Close upon us, which is another matter many of us cannot Bear, altho founded on the greatest truths, For my own part I se nothing to charge the Committee with in point of Conduct, some of their letters, were in a stile rather warm but that I imputed to Schylers Zeal and the Warm Climate of Matthews Nativity. Congress were not so angry at the Memorial of the General officers as you imagined. We are not apt to be angry at any thing we can evade. The memorial wase Committed to five members of Congress to consider & report upon, which hath been done, but in such a manner, If I may be allowed to judge from the little knowledge I have of the sentiments of the Army, As to give little or no Satisfaction.³ These letters are wrote intirely in confidence. My Compliments if you please to Harry Knox and tell him there is a report that his Honour & your self posses[s] the Most uneasy disposition of any two general officers in the Army. Much hath been lately said about some letters that certain Gentlemen wrote to Congress when they Sett at york Town.⁴

I am dear Genl with every Sentiment of Esteem your most obedient and most Hum Servant.

RC (MiU-C: Greene Papers). In Cornell's hand, though not signed. Endorsed: "From Genl. Cornel, Philada. 15th August 1780."

¹ Cornell is probably referring to the committee of five appointed on August 11 "to make an estimate of the expence . . . and to provide ways and means for such further supplies as may be necessary," for which see the preceding entry, note 3.

² Not identified.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Alexander McDougall, August 13, 1780.

⁴ Perhaps an allusion to some of the criticism directed at General Washington during the autumn and winter of 1777-78 associated with the intrigues of Gens. Thomas Conway and Thomas Mifflin, for which see these *Letters*, 8:314n.5, 330-31.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Sir Philadelphia August 15th. 1780.

I had the honour to receive your Excellencys letter of the 25th Ult. by yesterdays post.¹ It gave me great pleasure as it in a great measure, enabled me to give Congress, the information they have often called on me for, and that from good Authority, and in such a manner, as was perfectly agreeable to them, And you may rest asured the State, (tho small) stand high in the opinion of Congress, which tends to make this delegate, as happy as our distressed Situation, will admit. He hath the vanity, to think he hath both the Confidence and respect of congress as much as tho he represented a state much larger. At the same time I have a particular pleasure, to find the state have passed, a law, for funding the money ordered to be emitted, by a Resolution of the 18th March.² As it was the only means, that appeared to be left to Supply the want of money (and of the most

pressing Nature) for Carrying on the Operations, of the present Campaign. But Still I fear one difficulty, will attend the facilitating this Business, that is I fear the Board of Treasury are greatly in arear, in striking the New Money, for the several States that have sent their Acts of Assembly to Congress, And that Occasioned by some of the reasons I have mentioned in some of my former letters.

In my last I mentioned communicating your letter of the 22 Ult. to Congress and that it was refered to the Treasury Board,³ upon receiving your letter of the 25th I pressed the Matter. Congress have this day come to a Resolution, directing the President to send a Letter to the state, agreeable to the form fixed by them.⁴ It is very polite & expressive of the highest Satisfaction, in the Exertions the State hath at all times made in this Contest, Promising payment for any Sums the State may advance to the staff department. It is but a Cold way of advancing money, but you may rest asured it was all Congress could do, and much more than they would do for Som States. All circumstances Considered I hope the state will make themselves as easy as possible.

The President of Congress lately receivd a letter, from the Count De Roshambeau,⁵ it was exceeding polite, and its contents must do the heart of every American good, that had the pleasure to hear it read, but more especially if he belonged, to the States of Massachusetts or Rhode Island, as he appeared to be much pleased with the Conduct of the Militia, that came to his Assistance, and bestowed on them the highest ecomiums, And appeared to be perfectly secure In Newport, from Any visit Mr Clinton might please to make. The Minister at this place, appears much pleased with the Counts representations to him. I hope the people of Rhode Island, are as much predujuded in favour of the french gentlemen, at that place, as I am with the Minister here. I must Confess If I ever was predujuded against the french, it is all at an end; As I think it must be with every American, who hath the honour to be acquainted with the Minister, if he can be allowed a true Frenchman. To se his polite unaffected easy manner of adress, The kindness and abundance of good nature, with which he treats all ranks and orders of men, his excessive fondness for Americans as Allies, To which may be added the ease and comfort every one enjoys, that hath the honour to dine at his Table, free from every kind of cerimony, or fomality, Every one left to eat and drink as he pleaseth, stay as long as he pleaseth, and go away when he pleaseth, I want word to express, And shall [not] intrude on your patience.

The president receivd yesterday a large packet from Mr. Jay, dated Madrid May the 21st 1780.⁶ There was no publick news. Its chief contents were the Ideas and politicks of that Court upon the wole. I think it may be considered rather favourable towards these states. Particulars I am not authorised to Mention.

For publick news I must beg liberty to refer you to the inclosed papers. No Resolutions of any Considerable consequence Have passed since my last, only the Drawing Bills of Exchang on Dr. Franklin for 100,000 Dollars in Specia to be sent to Southern department to supply a Military Chest.⁷

I have the honour to be your Excellencys Most obdt Hum Servt,
Ezek. Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Greene's July 25 letter to Cornell was read in Congress on August 14 and referred to the Board of Treasury. See *JCC*, 17:730; and *PCC*, item 64, fols. 482-84.

² See Bartlett, *Records of R.I.*, 9:182-83.

³ See Cornell to Greene, August 8, note 1.

⁴ See Samuel Huntington to Greene, August 16, 1780.

⁵ For Congress' response to the comte de Rochambeau's August 3 letter, see Committee of Congress Report on Rochambeau's Letter, August 17, 1780.

⁶ Cornell is actually referring to John Jay's letter to President Huntington of May 26, for which see Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, 1780, note 2.

⁷ See James Lovell to Benjamin Franklin, this date.

John Hanson to Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Dear sir,

Philadelphia Augt. 15th 1780

I received your favour of the 11th by the post inclosing a letter to Mr. Carinichael which Shall be forwarded by the first Oppertunity. Had it have Come to hand yesterday Could have Sent it by Mr Laur-ance Who Sailed yesterday Morning for Holland.

Our Army Continues at Dobbs's ferry, it is great and daily increasing the Militia pouring In from all Quarters. I am perswaded there will be no want of men to Carry on the Expedition against New York or any other our worthy General may have in Contem- plation, but the feeding them is the difficulty. The Daily Consump- tion of the Army is now 100 Barrells flour and 60 Bullocks &c. This great as it is might be procured, but our Treasury is Empty and no Supplies expected from the States in any Sort equal to the demand, our Embarrassments are great, and exceedingly distressing and our finances in such a State as would require the Abillities of a Necker¹ to put it in proper order, yet I hope by the help of the new Bills, Certificates, And Sale of Bills of Exchange we Shall be able to Keep the Army together. My Compliments to Mr Carroll and the Ladies and am with usual esteem and respect, Dr sir Your most hble Sert,
John Hanson

[P.S.] The inclosed is a Translation of a letter Congress received from the french Commander at Rhode Island.²

RC (MdHi: Carroll Papers).

¹ That is, Jacques Necker, French director general of finances.

² The enclosed August 3 letter from the comte de Rochambeau at Newport is in the Carroll Papers, MdHi. For Congress' response to the French general's communication, see Committee of Congress Report on Rochambeau's Letter, August 17, 1780.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia August 15th 1780

I received your favour by the post. Our Army Continues at Dobbs's ferry. It is very great and daily increasing. Men I am persuaded will not be wanting to Carry into execution any enterprise our worthy General may have in Contemplation, but the feeding them is the difficulty. The daily Consumption of the Army is now 100 Barrells flour and Sixty Bullocks &c. This great as it is might be procured had we money, but our Treasury is empty, and no Supplies expected from the States in any Sort equal to the demand. Our embarrassments are great, and exceedingly distressing, and the State of our finances is Such as would require the abillities of a Necker to put it into proper order, yet I hope by the assistance of the new Bills, Certificates, and Sale of Bills, we Shall be able to Keep the Army together. The British fleet is Still off Rhode Island. No accounts yet of the Arrival of the Second Division of the french. Mr Jay is arrived at Madrid and yesterday Mr Laurance Sailed from hence for Holland. I have agreed with the Coachmaker for a Charot for you of the best Kind at £210 Gold or Continental at the exchange, to be finished by the first week in November—if you have a Coachmans Seat to it you Can have for the money 2 Setts of Harness only. If it is made without, four Setts will be furnished. Be pleased to let me have your Instructions in this matter by the next post. My most respectful Compliments to Mrs. Lee, her Commission Shall be attended to. Am Sorry I cant Send her the Slippers by this post, the man has disappointed me.

I am with very respectfully, your Excellencys most humble
Servt,

John Hanson

[P.S.] My finances begin to run low and I believe my Colleagues are not much better—pray Save in Some Cash, it must be in Continental old money, yrs,

J.H.

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

John Henry to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear Sir

Philadela. Aug. 15th. 1780.

A letter was yesterday received from Mr. Jay dated the 23d of May

at Madrid.¹ He has had several communications with the spanish Minister, but has never been received in his public character. Many important questions has been put to him; such as the Number of regular Troops, the manner of arming, paying, cloathing and feeding them. The Constitution of Congress and the several States, the Debt of each of them, the continental Loans and emissions &c &c &c. The Court seems to have acted towards him with great caution. Money they inform him might have been had last year, but now there own expences are so great as to lay them under the necessity of borrowing themselves. From the Complexion of the whole letter I believe they will not suffer the Bills that have already been drawn on Mr. Jay to return protested. This is a happy circumstance and I hope when they fully understand our necessities they will not withhold further support. The navigation of the Mississippi for a considerable distance up it is a great object with them and should we agree to give it up to their sole use and jurisdiction, together with a guaranttee for their other Dominions in its neighbourhood we might almost demand with a certainty of success any thing in their power to grant. You will remember that I am at present writing from information and not from my own knowledge of this letter. I was not present in Congress owing to my indisposition, when it was read. I shall inform my self of its contents, and will give you satisfactory extracts by the next post. Our Countryman Mr. Carmichael was well.

Our Army is increasing fast and men in abundance I believe may be had if we can support them: upon this head I have the most alarming fears. Col Blain writes that he has but a weeks provision before hand and no flour at Trenton where a considerable quantity was expected.

The militia from this City will march to day. The Holker and Fair American has put into this port a packet from England bound to N. York; she had on board a number of officers who are now in this City.

My Compliments to Mrs. Lee and believe me to be with sincerity and affection,

Yrs. J. Henry

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ John Jay's letter was actually dated May 26. See Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, 1780, note 2.

William Churchill Houston to Charles Stewart

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia 15 August 1780

I beg your Attention to sundry Matters contained in the Arrangement enclosed,¹ which though they occur in a System for conducting the Quarter Master General's Department are to operate on the

Department of the Commissary General of Issues.² I have marked some Places with an Index. As the Issuing of rations every where through the Country is, I know, disagreeable to you, and produces the utmost Distress to the Army by consuming the Provisions purchased for them, I hope you will give strict Orders in Conformity to the Resolutions referred to. They are, I observe, published in the New-Jersey Gazette; but I do not think they are generally known; and perhaps the Deputies at the different Posts may wait your Orders. It is a great Object and calls your immediate Attention. I should not suppose your Orders had not been given, but that I called at Trenton, and Mr. Paxton informed me he was at a total Loss what to do. This led me to think you had not seen the Resolutions.

I am, dear Sir, your very obedt hble Servant,

William Ch Houston

RC (MH-H: bMS Am 1243).

¹ That is, the new regulations for the quartermaster general's department, which had been adopted by Congress on July 15. *JCC*, 17:615-35.

² Colonel Stewart was the commissary general of issues.

Joseph Jones to James Hunter

Dear Sr.

15th Augt. 1780

Col. Chs. Carter sometime ago wrote to me to procure him a Bolting Cloth. I then enquired and found several in the possession of one person only for sale, the price for the finest £4 hard money Per yard the second size £3. I inform'd the Colonel of this and have not since heard from him. Want of Cash prevented my buying for him and will do the same for Mr Voss if any of the Cloths are left wch. is very doubtfull as they were I understood in great demand. We have nothing new worth mentioning. The Court of Spain are disposed to enter into the alliance and nothing but our pretensions on the Mississippi can I believe prevent it. Our Operations are for the present Suspended in expectation of a reinforcemt. to the French Fleet at this time inferior to the British. We shall when they arrive be in condition to Cooperate with them as our Army is much strengthen'd and is daily encreasing. Our only fear is provision to feed them. I thank you very kindly for your offer respecting Mrs. Jones but shall visit Virga. the first of next month. Some privateers have taken the Mercury Packet for New York with nine or ten Officers, some Ladies & Servts. who are now here. Adieu, yr. aff Sev.

Jos. Jones

RC (ViU: Hunter-Garnett Papers).

James Lovell to Benjamin Franklin

Honorable Sir.

Philadelphia 15 Aug 1780

Though I cannot procure the Signatures of the Committee of Foreign affairs at this moment, nor the resolve of Congress respecting Bills to be drawn on you for One hundred Thousand Dollars, passed two or three days ago,¹ the Bills payable at 90 days sight, yet I should be blamable if I did not thus far notify you. The breach upon our Taxes at the Southward, by the possession which the Enemy have there, made this disagreeable step necessary for the express purpose of supporting General Gates in that Department.

Notwithstanding the mention made in our Journals long ago, of giving you a Secretary, no vote has lately been taken for the purpose.

The Honorable Mr Laurens will be able on any questions from you, in corresponding, to give you whatever the Gazettes do not convey. I am Sir your most humble Servant,

Signed James Lovell

P.S. 22 Aug 1780.

I now add the resolves.

FC (DNA: PCC, item 79).

¹ This resolve, which authorized the preparation of bills of exchange to be drawn on Franklin for \$100,000 in specie for the military chest in the southern department, was actually adopted on August 9, although additional resolutions concerning the emission and distribution of these bills were adopted this day. See *JCC*, 17:712-14, 733-34. Lovell had doubtless obtained copies of those of the 15th as well as of the 9th when he added the postscript to this letter on the 22d.

James Lovell to Henry Laurens

Dr Sir.

Augst. 15th [1780]

Majr. Young could not tell me particularly any thing that you requested, but only that "you mentioned my Name" and he hoped I would know for what Purpose. I imagine "to know whether there was any News or any Letters for you." Mr. Bee recd. a single one for you from the Eastward and probably when the Post came afterwards from the southwd.—as to News—We yesterday had a Narrative of 40 Sheets from Mr. Jay dated Madrid 26th of May.¹ There is a great deal of interesting matter in it. I will give you a Sketch. On Apr 27 he recd. a Letter from the comtee. of for. Affairs dated Dec. 11 inclosg. the Resolves of Nov 23 & 29 for drawing on you and him for cash. Apr 29th He wrote to the C[om]te Florida Blanca very well on the Subject, but stuck too closely to the System of the address of Sepr. last which was his own Child. The Count in

Reply said He could have easily answered the Demand *last year*, but Spain is like Tantalus—her Revenues in America [mock her?]*—it is still his Majesty's Intentions to give the Congress all the assistance in his Power—at the end of the present year or the beginning of the next it would be in his Powers to advance £25, 30 or 40,000 Stg. in the mean Time should the Bills be presented "He would take such Measures as would satisfy the owners of them."* He would also endeavour to send Cloth.

As to a Treaty a long string of previous Questions were asked by the Spaniard and answered very wisely by the American. Mr. F.² is the Stick. The King is bent upon having it to himself Jay is stiff but thinks that a media Via such as a contraband Treaty may be stipulated specially in regard to that Navigation to prepare the Way for the great Negotiation of Amity. Mirailles had informed the Count that our Congress had relinquished the River and afterwards made an essential Point of it. The King had not got the Intelligence he wanted from Havannah in regard to *local Circumstance* which must be obtained previous to a Treaty.

N.B. I think that you may get such Information of Capt. Pickles and otherways as to be able to write a very useful Letter to J. concerning present local Circumstances in the Miss. Quarter. His conclusion is that Congress will adhere to their free navign. but that Regulations respectg. contraband articles and not inconsistent with that Idea and may be a means of closing the Business Amicably. He told the Count that many of the States were bounded by that River & were highly interested in its navigation but were willing to enter into amicable Regulations to prevent Inconveniencies in Regard to Contraband & other objects which might excite the Uneasiness of Spain.

Sir John Dalrymple appeared in Spain the 9th of April in his Way to England thro France, his wife not being able to bear the Sea from Portugal. He is endeavoring to revive a Plan of Ld. Rochforts fabricated before France was allied to America. It is for a General Confederacy between England, France, Spain & Portugal to guarantee each others Possessions: "it is not yet too late Says Sr. John to save a million of Christians from becoming Widows & orphans". The most material Proviso of the Confederacy is that a War in Europe shall not be a War in America.

Major Young calls.

The Spanish Minister treated Sr. John "properly" and gave the strongest assurances of the King's "Firmness" to Mr. Jay.

(Ministers of Holland and the northern Powers)

"I have recd. nothing more than common Civility from any of *them* except the Ministers of Holland & Sweeden, and indeed not much more from them. Perhaps they have been rendered more than usually cautious by an Extract of a Letter from Madrid *published* in the Leyden Gazette respecting Mr. Carmichael's Reception and the *Attention* he recd. from *govn. Ministers.*"

To the Comtee. May 27:³ "I have not yet had the Pleasure of hearing of Mr. Laurens's Arrival about which I am anxious. Be pleased to assure Congress that Mr. Laurens shall receive from me every mark of Attention and all the Aid in my Power to afford, the latter I fear will not be great."

God Bless & prosper you, Dr. Sir, yours,

JL

RC (ScHi: Laurens Papers, no. 31). Endorsed by Moses Young: "J.L. Phil. 15 Aug. 1780—rec'd same day".

¹ See Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, 1780, note 2.

² That is, José de Moñino y Redondo, conde de Floridablanca, Spain's secretary of state for foreign affairs.

³ Jay's brief May 27 letter to the Committee for Foreign Affairs is in PCC, item 110, 1:181; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:735.

North Carolina Delegates to Abner Nash

Dr. sr.

Philada. Augt. 15 1780

I¹ arrived at this place on the 22d of June & Having no Doubt but Mr. Burke would inform you of every thing material done in Congress previous to his Departure, I deferred writing to you, from day to day, with the hope of giving you an Account of the Arrival of the French Fleet. This Fleet, consisting of eight Ships of the Line & 3 or four Frigates commanded by Monsieur Ternay, & with 5000 Land Forces, under Count Rochambaud, got into Rhode Island on the 12th July; the Minister announced this Event to Congress on the 21st, and I gave you the Intelligence, together with a State of Matters here in my Letter of the 22d² by favor of Capt. Stith, copy of which I now inclose. His most Christian Majesty has put these Ships & Land Forces under the Command of Genl. Washington, and directed the Officers of both to pay him all the honours due to a Marshal of France.

What I suspected proves true, Graves is superior to the French Fleet. Two or three days after his (Graves) Arrival at Sandy Hook, having obtained a Reinforcemt. of about 1000 Seamen from N. York and being joined by Arbuthnots fleet, and all the Frigates upon the N. York Station, making in the whole near 20 Sail, nine or ten of which are of the Line, he sailed for Rhode Island, intending in Conjunction with a large body of Land Forces under the Command of Genl. Clinton in person, who was to proceed thro the Sound to attack the French by Land & Sea. Clinton embarked his Troops, and proceeded as far as Huntingdon bay; but returned suddenly again to N. York. Genl. Washington havg taken Measures for reinforcing Count Rochambaud as soon as he was informed of Clintons Embarkation crossed the No. River, and advanced rapidly towards N. York, with Intention to attack it in Clinton's Absence. Whether Clintons Return

was occasioned by Genl. Washington's Movements, or by contrary Winds, which delayed him so long that he had no prospect of surprising the French Commander, we know not: however it is greatly lamented that he did not persevere, for he must have failed inevitably at Rhode Island, the French being nobly supported by the New England Men, and Genl. Washington very probably would have carried N. York in his Absence. In Consequence of Clintons Return, Genl. Washington repassed the North River. Admiral Graves's Fleet lies at Anchor between Block Island and point Judith, so as to block up the French Fleet completely. The preparations for attacking New York are still going on with the greatest Vigour. Genl. Washington I conjecture has now with him near 20,000 Men, exclusive of a strong Garrison at West Pt.; the Militia of this State 3,500, march this day under the Command of their Governor; the Jersey Militia are ordered to be ready at an hours Warning, and other Reinforcements are yet to join the Army from the Eastward, all which will probably make an Army of at least 30,000 Men. Should the French Fleet be reinforced so as to give us a Superiority on the Water in time, I think N. York will certainly fall; otherwise I fear it will be impracticable to reduce it; nor do I know that Genl. Washington, without this Contingent, will make the attempt. Congress have been under the greatest Difficulties ever since my arrival arising chiefly from want of Money. There is not one Shilling in the Continental Treasury. The New Money for some of the States will soon be thrown into Circulation; we hope that will relieve us. Congress appears willing to do every thing for the Support of the Southern army and the Recovery of Georgia & So. Carolina. Genl. Washington is empowered and directed to form a plan for the latter purpose, but not to interfere with the immediate Operations agt. N. York:³ The Govr. of Virginia, is ordered to transmit a considerable [. . .]⁴ and of the Military Chest. Nothing remains to be done to complete this Resolution but to fix the price of the Bills, which is to be done this Morning. Governor Rutledge I believe will take with him all the Resolutions on this Subject, and a part or the whole of the Bills of Exchange.⁵

I recd. your Letter yesterday, and immediately enquired of the Clothier Genl. respecting our Cloathing, who tells me has nothing belonging to us. I will apply to the Board of War, and do every thing necessary, if there [. . .]⁶ Carolina; the Vessel was chased in the Bay and obliged to run into some Creek, where the arms were put on Shore, and left we fear in very bad Condition: however a Member of the Board informed W.J. some days ago that they had taken proper Steps for recovery of the arms and transporting them to No. Carolina agreeable to Order of Congress.⁷

We had Dispatches yesterday from Mr. Jay, our Minister at the Court of Spain. Nothing decisive had been done when he wrote; but the Spanish Court appeared friendly, and seemed disposed to second

our Operations against Great Britain. We fear the Navigation of the Mississippi will prove a stumbling Block; but we hope the Difficulty will be surmounted.

The Intelligence you communicate in your Letter gives us the highest Satisfaction, as well on Account of the vigorous Exertions made by our State against the Enemy, as of the Humanity displayed in relieving our Gallant Officers and Soldiers at Charlestown.

We know your present Situation, and are sincerely sorry that you have so many Difficulties to encounter; but we trust that perseverance will in the End surmount them all, great and numerous as they are, and we rejoice that the Genl. Assembly of No. Carolina had Wisdom to elect a Man who was equal to the important Occasion. You will oblige us exceedingly by giving us from time to time the Situation of Affairs in No. Carolina. The Accounts we get are so contradictory, that it is impossible to develop the Truth.

The Conduct of the Virginians is execrated here.⁸

We are with the most sincere Esteem, Dear Sir, Your most obedt. Servts.

Willie Jones

Whitll Hill

FC (Nc-Ar: Legislative Papers). In the hand of Willie Jones. RC (Nc-Ar: Governor's Papers). Written by Jones and signed by Jones and Whitmell Hill. Both texts damaged.

¹ That is, Willie Jones.

² Not found.

³ See Samuel Huntington to Washington, August 5, 1780.

⁴ Approximately one-half page missing at this point.

⁵ Jones is undoubtedly referring to Congress' August 7 resolve to provide a "Military Chest" for the southern department, for which see Huntington to Horatio Gates, August 10, note 3, and the sale of bills of exchange drawn on Benjamin Franklin under its August 9 resolve to obtain the needed funds, for which see James Lovell to Franklin, this date.

⁶ Undetermined amount of manuscript missing at this point. Remainder of text taken from RC.

⁷ For the arms ordered for North Carolina in June, see *JCC*, 17:486, 492.

⁸ In the absence of Nash's "Letter," Jones' reference here is unclear, but he is probably referring to Virginia's failure to mobilize troops for the ensuing campaign, for which see the following entry.

John Walker to George Weedon

Dear General:

Philadelphia, August 15, 1780.

The French fleet and army are still blocked up at Newport by Greaves, but in perfect security. Rochambeau heard Clinton was moving that way and applied to Heath for a few militia. They began to flock in so that in a few days they amounted to 20,000. Clinton immediately returned, but the brave Yankees could scarcely be prevailed on to go home before the land was purged of those pests to

society. How contrary is the conduct of Virginia? I am ashamed of my native country and almost determined to renounce it.

Would to God the second division were here and a junction with the first formed, in that case I think New York would quake. Our army is already getting very numerous and I think any number might be raised for the siege.

The derangement of our finances—the resignation of the Quarter Master General—Shippen's trial &c. &c. perplex us beyond measure, yet I hope all will be well with us. Pickering is appointed Quarter Master General and much is expected from his diligence and fidelity.

Prizes innumerable are brought in here. Yesterday was sent up the June packet, nine weeks from Falmouth with a cargo of officers and ladies. Your old friend M'Clanahan is principal owner of all the prizes, he fits out the Enemy's vessels as he takes them and in a short time will have a formidable squadron. The Packet mounted 20 guns, and he daily expects a copper bottom mounting 26 guns from the West Indies. Well done Blair.¹

When do you set out for the Southern Army? I hope things will soon begin to wear a better face there. Our scheme is to take New York with the fleet and army there before winter sets in, and then to send you sufficient succor to the south.

As soon as matters begin to draw towards a point at New York, I intend to visit my friends in camp and expect to see a glorious sight. I am greatly hurried and my paper out, therefore bid you adieu.

Jn. Walker.

MS not found; reprinted from Thomas Balch, ed., *Papers Relating Chiefly to the Maryland Line During the Revolution* (Philadelphia: Printed for the Seventy-Six Society, 1857), pp. 115–16.

¹ That is, Blair McClenachan, a Philadelphia merchant.

Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington

Sir, In committee of Congress,
Camp, Tapan, August 16th, 1780.

I inclose copy of a circular letter to the States, also copy of a letter from the commissary general to the committee, for the information of Congress.¹

With all deference, I beg leave to approach that august body over which you preside, and if the subject should not be thought "too important" and one of those that in the opinion of Congress "ought not to employ the time and attention" of this committee, and our interference in which, will not have a tendency to retrench too much

from the high prerogatives of that body,² I would humbly submit to their consideration, a letter from Coll. Stewart, copy of which is inclosed. In consequence of a resolve of Congress, Coll. Stewart is intitled to the value of the horse, on an appraisement, but being a favorite horse of his, he would prefer having him returned, rather than the money.³

I must beg the favour of your Excellency, to have the dispatches Southward of Pennsylvania, forwarded to the respective States.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most obedient servant, in behalf of the committee,

Jno Mathews

RC (DNA: PCC, item 39). In the hand of Abraham Brasher and signed by Mathews.

¹ See the following entry.

² Mathews is here paraphrasing Congress' August 2 resolves rebuking the committee for its interference in behalf of Nathanael Greene and its attention to memorials that were the primary concern of Congress, for which see the Committee to Huntington, July 18, 1780, especially notes 11 and 14. Since Congress had already dismissed the committee, this retort was merely read in Congress on the 21st with no action taken upon it. See *JCC*, 17:749; and Huntington to the Committee, August 12. Mathews' sarcasm here reveals feelings he had long been expressing, for he had been denouncing congressional incompetence in personal letters to friends since his early days in Congress in 1778, for which see these *Letters*, 10:236, 682–83, 11:70–71.

³ On July 17 Col. Walter Stewart of the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment appealed to both Philip Schuyler and the committee to honor his claim for return of his "Grey Horse" captured at Monmouth. The horse had since been sold by the British and acquired by Major Henry Lee's Corps, leading Stewart to conclude that because the horse was "now in Possession of the Publick, I have again a right to him." Although the letter was read in Congress, no action was ever taken. See *JCC*, 17:749; and PCC, item 78, 20:519–22.

Committee at Headquarters to the States

Circular.

Sir. In Committee of Congress, Tapan, August 16, 1780

Inclosed you will receive copy of a letter of the 15th Instant from the Commissary General.¹

Circumstanced as our Army at present is, the information contained in this letter becomes truly alarming. It requires the utmost attention of the Officers, together with all the necessaries, and even comforts of life, to render the service acceptable to recruits, and as the greatest part of the Army, at present consist of that class of men, if the time should unhappily arrive when we will be reduced to the necessity of putting them on half allowance of provisions, or probably have none to give them, the consequence must be, that those men unaccustomed to endure this species of distress, and not brought to that state of discipline, which can give their Officers that controul

over them, they have acquired over the old soldiers, must revolt at the Idea of tamely submitting to a service, when divested as they are, of every other privilege the soldiers of all armies are entitled to, and are furnished with, they cannot receive even the means of subsistence—if reduced to the extremity I have just mentioned, and an irreconcilable disgust should once take place among these men, and desertions (or perhaps something worse) begin, the contagion, will, beyond a doubt, pervade the whole Army: For it is not to be expected that the few old soldiers now remaining will be disposed to go on enduring the calamities they have so often experienced, when they find others equally bound with themselves and who have as yet had none of those difficulties to encounter manifesting so refractory a spirit, at what, they will conceive to be, trifles compared with their own sufferings.

Should such an event take place, the train of ruinous consequences that will inevitably ensue, must at once strike you so obviously, as to render unnecessary my entering into a detail of them. We do therefore earnestly request of you, Sir, that the Officers of your state, appointed to procure and forward the supplies, may be called on, in the most urgent manner, to give their utmost attention to the important business of keeping the Army regularly supplied with your quota of the articles that has been assigned to your state. As you must plainly perceive what embarrassments the least remission on the part of the States, or any of them, must throw us into: For it must be remembered, that the monthly supplies, are no more, than what is barely necessary for the consumption of the Army in that time.

It is true that the Army does not at present amount to the numbers, on which the estimate was made, but as the men are daily coming in, we are to suppose that the compliment of men will be made up by the end of this month. But at all events it is incumbent on us, to be provided to answer the largest demands that can be made on us.

It is not only the immediate supply of the Army, that the Committee would wish to call your attention to, but likewise, the necessity there is, of the greatest punctuality in furnishing the supplies agreeable to the requisitions that have been heretofore made, to prevent in future alarms, of this nature, and our giving you further trouble on the subject.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, Your Excellency's Most Obt. Servant, In behalf of the Committee,

copy

Jno. Mathews

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Addressed: "To the States from, New Hampshire, to Virginia; (Pensylvania excepted)."

¹ In this August 15 letter Blaine warned the committee of the exhaustion of the Continental magazines throughout the states and the need for 25,000 daily rations to feed a rapidly expanding army, "two thirds of which are New Levies not acquainted

with the hardships of the field or want of Provisions in Camp." Blaine observed that "many of the States have done little, others are moving Slowly, and those who are their utmost Exertions will fall short of the Supplies required." See PCC, item 165, fols. 327–28. For Blaine's August 7 appeal in a similar vein, see John Mathews to Samuel Huntington, August 8, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to William Greene

Sir, Philadelphia August 16th. 1780
 Your Letters of the 22 & 25 of last Month to the Delegates of your State have been received and laid before Congress,¹ and in Answer thereto I am to acquaint you, that Congress have a proper Sense of the Exertions of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in the Common Cause—That any Disbursements which may be made by that State for the Use of the United States beyond its Quota shall be reimbursed as soon as Circumstances will admit. That Congress depend on the Several States for the necessary Supplies of Money for carrying on the War—That the Bills of Credit to be emitted in Persuance of the resolution of the 18th of March last will yield a Supply as soon as the several Quotas of the Continental Bills of Credit are collected to be destroyed—That the Quota of the aforesaid Bills for your State shall be transmitted as soon as possible, after a Copy of the Act complying with the resolution is received. If Taxes were laid payable in new Bills or Specie, it would have a good Tendency to introduce the said Bills into Circulation in full Credit. By order of Congress, Sam. Huntington President²

RC (R–Ar: Letters to Governors). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Governor Greene had appealed to Congress on July 22 for relief from the demands for money placed on Rhode Island by the staff departments of the Continental Army, which he termed "immensely greater than our abilities." The letter was referred to the Board of Treasury on August 8, whose unsympathetic report was submitted on August 14, the same day Cornell presented Greene's July 25th letter explaining the state's recent efforts to cope with its fiscal crisis. The result was that the treasury's report was immediately recommitted, and the following day Congress ordered that the present temporizing letter be sent to Greene. See *JCC*, 17:708, 730–32, 735–36; PCC, item 64, fols. 478–85; and Ezekiel Cornell to Greene, August 8 and 15, 1780.

² This day Huntington also wrote a brief note to deputy quartermaster general Udney Hay in which he merely signified that Hay's letter of the 7th had been referred to the recently appointed quartermaster general, Timothy Pickering. See PCC, item 15, fol. 79; and *JCC*, 17:728.

John Armstrong, Sr., to William Irvine

Dear General, Philada. 17th August 1780
 By Coll. Johnston I had the pleasure of writing you at Some length

wch. I hope you recd.¹ The bearer Captain Vanderhorst—otherwise Vanross,² I beg leave to recommend to your Civilities & those of the Gentlemen of the Pennsylvania line. He is a Gentn. who lately possessed a very pritty Fortune in the neighbourhood of Charlestown from whence he has been Obligated to flee with great loss, whoes hospitallity hath often been witnessed by Coll. Coner & my Self. He designs only a Visit to Camp, wishes the pleasure & curiosity of Seeing Our Commander in Chief, then returns to South Carolina. I am grieved to hear of the agitation at Camp of a certain point of delicacy & honr. wherein the Officers of the Army, but more particularly those of our line are deeply interested—having heard this matter but imperfectly, shall only take the liberty of making two Short Observations. I hope the Young Gentn. will have prudence and address enough to decline the honr. of that particular Command. But if our Officers must make a Sacrifice please to remember, it is not to an individual only, but to the weal & Safety of many, to the publick good of these commonwealths at large—a Sacrifice this, which if I mistake not, is Second, only to that which we owe to God himself. My Health has been in jeopardy of late by excessive heat, business & Confinement, in this City where many of late hath made a Sudden exit from the present world—but if my health is Spared until the Memorial of the General Officers is carried through, Mr. McClane being now come, I intend to retire, before which you will hear from me in a future letter. I begin to doubt whether the 2d Division of the F. Fleet will arrive in time, but Still hope that this Campaign will not pass Over without Some happy event to these States & Laurels to the Arms of America.

I am Dear General, Affectionately Yours,

John Armstrong

RC (PHi: Irvine Papers).

¹ See Armstrong to Irvine, August 3, 1780.

² Apparently Arnoldus Vanderhorst (1748–1815), for whom see Walter B. Edgar and N. Louise Bailey, *Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1974–), 2:686–88.

Committee of Congress Report on Rochambeau's Letter

[August 17? 1780]

The Committee to whom was referred the letter of the 3d inst. from le Compte de Rochambeau, report the following answer to be given by the President:¹

Sir

Congress have recd. with *<sincere>* Satisfaction your letter of the 3d inst. which besides exhibiting the zeal of the troops under your command for the service of their allies, and the vigilance of their chief in providing agst. the enterprises of the Enemy, conveys fresh assurances from your illustrious sovereign of his benevolent views towards the United States; assurances which can not fail to make the deepest impression, because they are attended with the most solid proofs of their sincerity.

If any difficulties have retarded a part of the succour generously destined *<for>* to Co-operate in² the expulsion of the Enemy from these states, or have rendered the preparations on our part less complete than was *<wished>* Intended,³ We persu[a]de ourselves that sufficient Amends will be made by the vigor of the combined operations, and by the mutual emulation that must be felt by the allied troops, fighting side by side, in a cause so honorable and with an object of such magnitude immediately before them. Under circumstances like these, any impediments that may arise from the strength or position of the enemy can have no other effect than to *<inspire an inflexibility>* increase the Ardor⁴ to overcome them.

Should Genl Clinton resume his projected attack on your armament Congress have the highest confidence that the adjacent militia will again evince their zealous attachment to their friends & brethren as well as that the latter will give equal proof that their intrepid valour which has so often displayed itself against the British arms in Europe is no less formidable when opposed to her ambitious designs against this Country; And that the result will be a happy presage of a successful issue to the campaign: as this must be of a successful issue to the war.

The Citizens of the United States and the French nation, already bound together by the ties of interest, of honor and the most solemn engagements, want nothing to perfect their coalition, but t[he] endearing circumstance of having mutually contributed to acquire for each other the glory of triumphing over a restless and powerful enemy to the rights of Mankind.

With sentiments of the most perfect consideration & respect I have the honor to be your most Obedient & very humble Servant.

S. H. Pt.

MS (DNA: PCC, item 78). In the hand of James Madison, with interlineations by Samuel Adams. Madison, *Papers* (Hutchinson), 2:61–62.

¹ Lt. Gen. Jean-Baptiste-Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, had arrived at Newport in command of 6,000 French troops, with a fleet commanded by the chevalier de Ternay, on July 11. In his letter of August 3 to Huntington, Rochambeau apologized for the delay in paying his respects to Congress and announced his eagerness to work with General Washington, and spoke in glowing terms of the cooperation he had received from the New England militia and of the common cause of the United

States and France against Britain. The letter was referred to a committee consisting of Samuel Adams, James Lovell, and James Madison on August 12, which submitted the report printed here on the 17th. The report was drafted by Madison; a few verbal alterations are in the hand of Adams.

Their work apparently did not meet the delegates' approval, however, and in its stead Congress adopted a simple resolution of acknowledgement that was sent to Rochambeau by President Huntington under cover of a brief letter of the 19th. See *JCC*, 17:723, 742; *PCC*, item 78, 18:315–20; and Huntington to Rochambeau, August 19, 1780. For Rochambeau's arrival, see also Lafayette, *Papers* (Idzerda), 3:86, 96–97.

² "to Co-operate in" interlined by Samuel Adams.

³ "Intended" interlined by Adams.

⁴ "increase the Ardor" interlined by Adams.

Robert R. Livingston's Proposed Resolves on Quartermaster Certificates

[August 17–24? 1780]¹

Whereas Congress did in & by their resolutions of the 18th of March Last recommend to the several States the issuing of a new emission of Bills of credit upon permanent & stable funds directing that the said emissions should Issue only in proportion as the former bills of credit issued by Congress were brought in & sunk, And whereas by reason of delays in lev[y]ing the taxes recommended by Congress sufficient supplies of money to answer the exigencies of the publick have not been brought in by reason whereof the Officers of the staff departments have been under the necessity of Issuing certificates to the publick creditors which certificates being payable in taxes not only prove an effectual bar to the execution of the said resolutions but open a wide door to the greatest impositions & frauds—Which can in no wise be prevented but by supplying the staff departments with money & putting a stop to the farther Issues of certificates.

Resolved therefore that no certificates given after the 1st day of Octr. next by any Officer of the united States shall be considered as binding upon the States even tho' they shd. be given for value recd. And that from & after the first day of March next no certificate of any date whatsoever shall be received as a part of the quota of taxes from any state at the continental treasury unless it shall appear that such State has fully complied with the requisition for taxes to that time & have still an overplus of certificates upon hand.

Resolved that all the bills of credit emitted by Congress be destroyed as they are brought in in manner as is directed in & by the said resolutiuons of Congress of the 18 of March last. And that in the mean time in order to supply the exigencies of the publick & stop the further issues of certificates, Resolved that Where any state has passed laws for emitting & funding bills of credit agreeable to the

resolutions of the 18th of March last such money shall immediately Issue upon the credit of such funds 4/10 thereof to be lodged in the publick treasury of the united States & the remaing 6/10 in the treasuries of the respective states to be applied to the purchase of the specifick supplies demanded by Congress.

Resolved that all the resolutions of the 18th of March [for] the sinking & redeeming of the said Bills of credit continue in full force.

And whereas the said resolutions of the 18th of March either not being fully understood or with design to weakning publick credit have been represented as contrary to & inconsistant with the resolutions of the day of last—Resolved that Congress will firmly abide by the said resolutions in such manner that all the said bills emitted by them be sunk by taxes or redeemed by the time therein limited in manner specified by the said resolutions. And whereas it may so

MS (NHi: Livingston Papers). In the hand of Robert R. Livingston.

¹ On August 17, Livingston was appointed to a committee, with Roger Sherman and William Churchill Houston, charged with devising “means to prevent the farther issues of certificates by the officers of the staff departments.” The committee’s report was submitted on August 24, and it was debated and adopted, substantially as presented, on August 26.

Since Livingston heads the list of committee members, the presumption that he was its chairman is strong, but the committee report submitted on August 24 is in the hand of Sherman. Moreover, since only a single provision—the final passage of the provisions adopted, added during debate on August 26—is in Livingston’s hand, it is impossible to judge Livingston’s views on the issuance of quartermaster certificates from the completed work of the committee. However, the draft report printed here indicates that he was opposed to the practice, perhaps so much so that his recommendations had to be set aside to attain support for a practical compromise that would command majority support in Congress.

The plain fact was that the staff departments could not obtain supplies for Washington’s army without issuing certificates, because bills of credit for commissary and quartermaster purchases were available only in insignificant quantities and would be until the system envisioned by the resolves of March 18 was fully implemented. The choices left to Congress were unlikely, therefore, either to solve the army’s procurement needs or to place Continental finances on a sound footing. The approach adopted by Congress on August 26 was essentially hortatory. That embodied in Livingston’s proposed resolves emphasized ending the practice of accepting certificates in payment of taxes, which had been recommended in congressional resolves adopted on May 26, 1780, to put greater pressure on the states to implement the March 18 resolves for withdrawing the old currency from circulation. This feature was not entirely eliminated from the resolves actually adopted, but the compromise language retained suggests a recognition that Continental officials would remain dependent upon the issuance of commissary and quartermaster certificates for some time. See *JCC*, 17:463–65, 742, 773–74, 782–84; and *PCC*, item 26, fols. 197–201.

Thomas Bee to Benjamin Lincoln

Dr. General,

Philadelphia 18 August 1780

I wrote you last Week since which two Flags have arrived from

Charles Town, one with Mr Plombard & about 46 French Men, the other with a number of Women & Children amongst them Cannon & Davidson's families, the inclosed Letters came by this Conveyance. Our Accounts from that Quarter by these People & also by Land from General Gates's Army, is, that he has now upwards of Ten thousand Men with him, & has sent 5000 towards Camden & with the rest would move towards Pee Dee—there have been several smart Skirmishes between Advanced Parties. Col Sumpter on the 21 Ult. Attacked a Party at (Ansor old Court House) the upper part of Pee Dee, killed & took upwards of 50 of the Queens Rangers & dispersed 1500 disaffected Tories who were gathering in that quarter, he had not 500 men with him, some Accounts Say they have retired from Camden & that Lord Cornwallis had his Head Quarters at Moncks Corner—tis certain, by the Charles Town Paper of the 4 Augt. that, Col Turnbull who then commanded at Camden with one Regiment had been summoned by the Rebels consisting of 1,500 (as they say) to surrender. They add Turnbull, turned out & defeated them—but our Accts. say we are now in possession of Camden, which is a certain Evidence, Turnbull retreated. Our Prisoners suffer very much & Congress have done nothing for them as yet. I hope by tomorrow to Effect something,¹ great Numbers of the Prisoners had made their Escape, 120 went off in one night about a fortnight ago, & perswaded a Hessian Guard to go with them—about 14 were retaken & close Confined they all had Arms with them—& were supposed to have shot Col Tarlton, as he was wounded riding along the road by some one concealed in the woods & is dangerously wounded in the groin. A report prevailed in Town that Lord Rawdon was Killed in one of the Skirmishes back. Only 1000 Hessians remain in Town—The Small Pox & yellow fever very rife there, numbers have died already. They have broke the Capitulation in many Instances—refusing to let any of the Inhabitants dispose of any Part of their Property for their subsistance. Mr. Ferguson was turned out of his House by Lord Cornwallis—& when he sent for some of his furniture was refused it. Col Balfour now commands in the Town they have removed all the heavy Cannon from Fort Moultrie (now called Fort Arbuthnot) to New York, the Passengers in the Flagg say the Tories begin to fear an Evacuation, & although the Militia had been called on to turn out & bear Arms for the King, none had done it, many had left their homes & taken to the woods, & I make no doubt as Genl Gates marches downwards he will be joined by numbers, who formerly wished to remain at home neuters. Col. Chas. Pinckney who came off as far as No. Carolina, had gone in & surrendered himself to the Enemy, as Col Horry had done before, they both had their Parole, but were sent over to James Island, at which place & Johns Island, all the late Members of the Legislature, except the garrisons of Chas. Town & fort Moultrie were now confined to the range of the Island

only. This is all I can recollect at present, & I give it not as all authentic, but I really believe it to be so in the general. With Esteem, I remain, Dr. General, Yours Sincerely,

Tho Bee

RC (ScU: South Caroliniana Library).

¹ This day Bee had been appointed to a committee of five in response to a letter of this day from Gov. John Rutledge concerning the treatment of prisoners in Charleston. The committee's August 21 report was postponed until the 25th when Congress ordered that Rutledge be informed that Americans captured at Charleston "will equally share the care and attention of Congress with those captivated in any other of the United States." See *JCC*, 17:743, 752–53, 778.

Abraham Clark to William Livingston

Sir, Philada. August 19. 1780

Colo. Pickering Qr. M. Genl. will call upon your Excellency on the Appointing his Deputy for the State—the appointment is to be by the Approbation of the Executive Authority. He requestd Mr. Houston, Mr. Fell & my self to Name such as we thought proper, we Accordingly Named Mr. Conduct, Mr. Furman & Mr. Caldwell either of which we Supposed might Answer, which of these he will prefer I cannot say, perhaps he will leave it with you to take either. We named Mr. Conduct in Consequence of your Excellencys Recommendation last Winter, but for my part I wish he may not be the person for this one Single reason, that I think he will do his Country more service in the Station he now fills, in which I fear his place will be but poorly Supplied, and we ought not to take from the Legislature one of its firmest and most useful members at a time such Characters are of so much importance there.¹ As to Mr. Furman,² the Settlemt. of his Accounts for past expenditures will perhaps induce him to decline it, Upon a persuasion he cannot properly Attend to both. Mr. Caldwell is acquainted with the business,³ can endure fatigue & is capable of great dispatch, but I am wholly at a loss whether such an Appointment would be Acceptable to him or not; if he will accept and I had the Appointment I should not long hesitate in my choice. I do not mean to say any thing to Mr. Conducts prejudice as I believe he would execute the office with great fidelity, but must nevertheless think he ought to decline it unless there is a clear prospect that his present place will be Supplied equally Advantageous to the public which is a matter I something more than doubt will be the case. I am Sir, Your Excellencys most Obedt. & Hum. Servt.

Abra. Clark.

P.S. By Capt. Dennis the bearer of this I send forward a Letter and two Sealed bundles from Mrs. Jay.

RC (NN: William Livingston Papers).

¹ Silas Condict (1738–1801) was a member of the New Jersey Legislative Council. *Bio. Dir. Cong.*

² That is, deputy quartermaster Moore Furman.

³ Rev. James Caldwell, former assistant quartermaster and current assistant forage-master at Springfield, N.J., is identified in these *Letters*, 4:598n.1.

⁴ The appointment of deputy quartermaster general for New Jersey under the new arrangement went to John Neilson (1745–1833), brigadier general of New Jersey militia. *Bio. Dir. Cong.*

Committee at Headquarters to the States

Circular.

In Committee of Congress.

Sir, Camp Tapan, Augt. 19th, 1780.

When America stood alone against one of the most powerful nations of the earth, the spirit of liberty seemed to annimate her sons to the noblest exertions, and each man cheerfully contributed his aid in support of her dearest rights. When the hand of tyranny seemed to bear its greatest weight on this devoted country, their virtue and perseverance appeared most conspicuous, and rose superior to every difficulty. If then, such patriotism manifested itself throughout all ranks, and orders of men among us, shall it be said at this day, this early day of our enfranchisement, and independence, that America, has grown tired of being free? Let us, Sir, for a moment take a retrospective view of our then situation, and compare it with the present, and draw such deductions from the premises, as every reasonable man, or set of men, ought to do. In the early stage of this glorious revolution, we stood alone. We had neither Army, military Stores, money, or in short any of those means which were requisite to authorize a resistance. The undertaking was physically against us. But Americans abhorred the very Idea of slavery! Therefore, reposing the righteousness of their cause in the hands of the supreme disposer of all human events, they boldly ventured to defy the vengeance of a tyrant, and either preserve their freedom, inviolate to themselves, and posterity, or perish in the attempt. This was the situation, and temper of the people of this Country, in the beginning of this controversy. At this day America is in strict alliance with one of the first nations of the earth, for magnanimity, power, and wealth, and whose affairs are conducted by the ablest statesmen, with a prince at their head, who hath justly acquired the title, of the protector of the rights of mankind. A respectable fleet and Army of our ally, are already arrived among us, and a considerable reinforcement is hourly expected, which, when arrived, will give us a decided superiority in these Seas; the whole to co-operate with the force of this Country, against the common enemy. Another powerful nation (Spain) though not immediately allied with us, yet in fighting her own, she is daily

fighting the battles of America, from whence, almost every advantage is derived to us, that could be produced in a state of alliance. An Army we now have in the field, part of whom, are veterans, equal to any the oldest established nations can boast. Our Militia from a five years War, are become enured to Arms. You have at the head of your Army a General, whose abilities as a soldier, and worth as a Citizen, stand confessed, even by the enemies of his country. Our officers of all ranks, are fully equal to the duties of their respective stations. Military stores are within our reach. Our money though not so reputable as that of other nations, with proper attention, we have reason to expect, will shortly emerge from its present embarrassed state, and become as useful as ever.

Now, Sir, from a comparative view of our circumstances at the beginning, and at this day, how much more eligible, how much more pleasing, and important, must the latter appear, than the former, to every dispassionate man? Then, shall we leave to future generations to say, shall we at present commit ourselves to the world to exclaim, that, when Providence had benignly put into our hands the most essential means of obtaining by one decisive blow, the inestimable prize we had been contending for, it was lost; disgracefully lost; for want of proper exertions on our part? That avarice, Luxury, and dissipation, had so enervated the boasted sons of American freedom, that rather than forego their present ease, and wanton pleasures, they would tamely, cowardly submit to the loss of their Country, and their liberty, and become those abject slaves, which their generous natures, but a few, very few years before, would have revolted at the bare Idea of?

These reflections arise, Sir, from the extraordinary backwardness of some States, and great deficiencies of others, in sending the men into the field, that was required of them, near three months ago, and ought to have joined the Army fifty days past; and an apprehension that, from this torpidude, America has forgot she is contending for liberty, and independence, and the good intentions of our generous ally will be totally frustrated by our unpardonable remissness. Our former letters to the states, have been full on this very important subject, and we are concerned to be driven to the necessity of reiteration; but our duty to our Country, our respect for the reputation of the Commander in Chief of our Army, impel us to it: For a knowledge of the force that has been required of the states for the Campaign, and which was allowed to be adequate to an important enterprize, will induce a belief in our Countrymen, in the world, that it has been furnished, and they must stand amazed to see our Army inactive, and things not in that train for operation, which ought, in such a case, to be expected, especially at this advanced season of the year.

Again;—The force of our ally, now with us, and the shortly ex-

pected arrival of its second division, must clearly evince the utility of our Army's being put in a condition to undertake an enterprize, which if successful, must give a deadly wound to our unrelenting and ambitious foe. But what apology can be made, if, when the Commander in Chief of our Army, should be called on by the Commander of the forces of our generous ally, and informed, he is ready to undertake with him, whatever measures he shall think proper to point out, he shall be reduced to the cruel necessity of acknowledging his inability to engage in any enterprize, that can possibly redound to the honor, or reputation of the Arms of either nation? Sir, the reflection is too humiliating to be dwelt on, without the extremest pain; nay horror!

You must pardon us, worthy Sir, for the freedom with which we have now delivered our sentiments on this truly interesting subject. We flatter ourselves, great allowances will be made for our situation, when we daily have before our eyes specimens, of that want of energy in conducting our affairs, which must shortly, so far embarrass us, as to render all future exertions inadequate to the attainment of those great purposes, at which we aim. America wants not resources; we have men (independent of those necessary for domestic purposes) more than sufficient to compose an Army capable of answering our most sanguine expectations: And our Country teems with provisions of every kind necessary to support them. It requires nothing more than a proper degree of energy to bring them forth, to make us a happy people. This we trust, Sir, the state over which you preside, will shew no reluctance in contributing her aid to, by taking such decisive measures, as will, without loss of time, bring into the field, the remainder of your quota of men, that have been required for the campaign.

The articles of provisions, forage, and teams, are no less important than men; but as the Committee had the honor of addressing you but a few days ago, on the subject of provisions, and the other articles, being so nearly allied with that, we will not intrude it on you, at this time.

Inclosed is copy of a letter from the Commander in Chief, of the 17th Instant to the Committee; It will fully shew you the state of the Army, at this time, and how great a deficiency of men there is, to what their ought to have been before this day. However we hope, Sir, it will be no discouragement to your state, to using their utmost exertions, for furnishing the remainder of their troops, to join the Army as soon as possible; and that the idea of its being probably too late, before a sufficient force can be collected to promise a successful Campaign, will be totally banished; for policy, as well as interest, dictate to us, to be always prepared to take advantage of every favourable conjuncture, and it is impossible to say how soon such a one will present itself.

The Generals letter treats this subject in every other respect so fully, as renders it unnecessary to add more, than that, we have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, Your Excellency's, Most Obedt. Hble servts., In behalf of the Committee,

Jno. Mathews¹

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 11). Addressed: "To the States from New Hampshire, to Virginia—(Pensylvania excepted)."

¹ Mathews also wrote a brief letter to Samuel Huntington this day enclosing this final circular letter to the states and Washington's August 17 letter to the committee concerning the deficiencies in the Continental Line and the precarious state of supplies, for which see PCC, item 39, 1:227; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:391–94.

Committee of Congress Report

[August 19? 1780]¹

The Committee, to whom was referred the letter of the 19th instant from Richard Peters Esquire, humbly propose the following Resolves, viz.

That the legislature of Pennsylvania be requested to exempt from all militia duty, and penalties incurred for neglect thereof, the Commissioners of the boards of war, treasury & admiralty, and their respective Secretaries, the Commissioners of the navy & of the chambers of accounts, the Secretary of Congress, Treasurer of the United States, Treasurer of loans, Post-Master-General, Post-Masters and Post-riders; their personal attendance on the business of their several employments being indispensibly necessary to the public service.

That in the meantime the President of Congress do give Furloughs to such of the officers and persons enumerated for two months, as are now called upon to serve in the militia of the said State, but that they be nevertheless allowed by the United States as part of the quota of the militia of said State called into actual service.

Your very humble Servant,

Tho M:Kean

MS (PHC: Roberts Collection). Written and signed by Thomas McKean.

¹ This undated report was prepared in response to an August 19 letter from Richard Peters, a Philadelphia lawyer and member of the Board of War, which was read this day in Congress and referred to a committee consisting of Thomas McKean, Robert R. Livingston, and John Morin Scott. Peters' letter is not in PCC but he undoubtedly cited his board assignments in seeking relief from Pennsylvania militia duty, a particularly sensitive subject not only because relations between Pennsylvania and Congress had long been strained but also because many Continental employees were in a position similar to that of Peters. There is no evidence in the journals that this report was ever delivered, but for a compromise statement that was offered this day by Abraham Clark, affirming the "importance" of Peters' service to Congress but nevertheless leaving it "to his own option how to act in the present case," see *JCC*, 17:747.

Samuel Huntington to Ralph Izard

Sir,

Philada August 19. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 9 Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that Congress are convinced of your faithful Endeavours fulfill the Objects of your Commission therein mentioned; and approve of the reasons which determined you not to proceed to the Court of Tuscany.¹

I have the Honor to be &c &c &c,

S.H.

P.S. Please to excuse the Delay of furnishing you with this Act which was occasioned by mere Accident.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Izard, who had been appointed commissioner to the court of Tuscany in 1777, had just returned to America, and in an August 6 letter had solicited Congress' endorsement of his conduct abroad, particularly his "reasons for not going into Italy." These he had long ago explained while at Paris—that he had been dissuaded from going to Italy by the Tuscan minister at the court of France, to avoid embarrassment to the Grand Duke, "from the State of politicks at that time." The letter was referred to a committee consisting of James Lovell, Thomas McKean, and James Madison on August 7, and the recommendations of the committee, drafted by Lovell, were adopted on the 9th. See *JCC*, 17:701, 714-15; and *PCC*, item 19, 3:259-62, item 89, fols. 140-43.

Samuel Huntington to Timothy Pickering

Sir,

Philada August 19. 1780

You will receive herewith enclosed an Act of Congress of this Day, directing the late Quarter Master General to furnish you with the proper Returns & Information of the Articles belonging to that Department &c, and that he cause to be delivered over to your Order all such Articles & Things as are comprehended in the Act enclosed.¹

I am, Sir, with Sentiments of Esteem & respect, your most obedient servant,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ This "Act" was adopted in response to a request from Pickering for specific authority to facilitate the assumption of control by his deputies over matters previously under the direction of Nathanael Greene. The enclosed resolve was taken nearly verbatim from Pickering's August 19 letter to Congress. *JCC*, 17:747-48; and *PCC*, item 192, fols. 25-27. Huntington also sent another copy of the resolve under cover of a brief letter of this date to Greene. *PCC*, item 15, fol. 81.

Samuel Huntington to the Comte de Rochambeau

Sir,

Philada August 19. 1780

I have the Honour to send you herewith enclosed an Act of Con-

gress of the 17 Instant by which you will be informed, that they entertain a just Sense of the Vigilance & Prudence you have exercised, as also the Commander of the french Squadron Monsr de Ternay, in taking the Precautions mentioned in your Letter of the 3 Instant, as well as your particular Attention to the Ease & Convenience of the Militia of these States.¹

The Spirit, good Order & Discipline of the Troops under your Command meets with the warmest Approbation of Congress.

I have the Honor to be &c &c,

S.H.²

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ Congress adopted the enclosed resolve, which was simply paraphrased here by Huntington, in lieu of the response drafted by James Madison for the committee to whom Rochambeau's August 3 letter had originally been referred. See *JCC*, 17:742; and Committee of Congress Report on Rochambeau's Letter, August 17, 1780.

² This day Huntington also notified John Maxwell Nesbitt and John Nixon that "you are discharged from any farther Service as Continental Agents for Prizes in this State, and directed to account with the Board of Admiralty." PCC, item 15, fol. 80. This decision had been made in response to the board's complaint that, despite "repeated written and verbal messages," Nesbitt and Nixon had ignored its call for an accounting of the disposition of the prizes that had come under their agency. See *JCC*, 17:743-44; and Paullin, *Marine Committee Letters*, 2:183.

Ezekiel Cornell to Horatio Gates

Dear General

Philadelphia August 20th 1780

I have long wished to do my self the Honour, of writing to you. But have waited for a subject that would give you pleasure; rather than trouble you with a gloomy letter, which would only serve as an addition, to the many difficulties, that presented themselves to my view, as obstructions to the measures, necessary for you to persue, in carrying into execution the grand object, of your appointment, to the Command of the Southern Army. And when I considered your Experienced abilities, perseveranced and Indifatigable Industry, I flattered my self the difficulties in the Souther department, would soon vanish, And the career of the Enemy be so far checked, as in a great measure, to secure the Country from their ravages. And our Illustereous Commander in Chief, with the combined force of the Main Army, and the sea and land force, sent to our assistance by our good & faithful Ally, would before this furnished me with occurencies; not only pleasing, but of real utility, in rendering our Independancy parmanent. Altho I do not at this time realize all those flattering Ideas, I cannot but hope you will, on your part before this will reach you. And that I shall be able in my next to inform you that the Commander in chief, hath made some progress, towards the compl[et]ion of his grand object.

General Washington, is encamped in the neighbourhood of Dobbs Ferry, on the West side the North River with about Fourteen Thousand men exceedingly well disciplined. President Reed is in the Neighbourhood of Trenton with 3 or 4000 Pennsylvania Militia. The Count De Rosambeau and General Heath, are at Rhode Island with a Considerable force, Monsr Torneay is at the same place, with the French Squadron. And Admiral Greaves with a Superiour force, is at Anchor between Block-Island and Point-Juditl.

Sr. Harry Clinton some time since, took it into his head, to make a formidable attack, on Rhod-Island, but after taking about 10,000, of his best Troops, on Board Transports and proceeding, as far as Huntington Bay, he judged more wisely of the matter, (As General Washington had put his Army in full motion to attack NYork) And returnd to the no small disappointment of the general. And the great mortification, of the French Commanders, who had made such preparations for his reception, that it would have been the hight of their ambition, to have had the honour, of giving him an entertainment. The Massachusetts, and Rhode-Island Militia, turned out with more then Usual alacrity, on this occasion And the greatest harmony subsisted, between all parties, and among all Ranks. And when the stay of the Militia was no longer necessary, they returned home, highly pleased with their new friends and Allies, who were no less pleased, with the conduct, of those they came to fight for.

Great preparations, both in raising men and furnishing supplies have been made, for the Reduction of N York. All further operations against that object, at present depend, on the Arival of the Reinforcement, that is hourly expected from france, should a superiour Navel force arive in season, every circumstance will be as much in our favour, as we can expect if we take into Idea, the strength of a garrison strongly fortified, and defended, by a garrison of 15,000 Regular Troops, exclusive of 3 or 4000 Irregulars. General Washington, will not in my opinion, want for men or Supplies, in case the operations, are once begun in earnest. Notwithstanding the great want of Money, which hath much embarased our publick measures, and that difficulty is by no means removed. But by the smiles of Providence we enjoy the Blessing, of a plentiful Harvest, & all kinds of Provision Necessary for the Army.

Notwithstanding the foregoing preparations, Congress have not been unmindfull of you and the Army under your Command, And many Resolutions have passed for Supplying, and making the department as formidable as possible, and among the rest, Bills for 100,000 dollars in Specia, have been drawn on our Minister, at the Court of Varsalis, and ordered to be forwarded, to Mr. Clay D. P. M. G. to be by him, sold to furnish the military Chest under your directions. I will not take up your time, as it is more than probable, the Resolution will reach you, before this letter.¹

I cannot close this letter, without observing that it would be much more agreeable to me, to be in the same station I had the Honour to hold [the] last Campaign, than the One I am now honoured with.² Not only that I think I could do my cause more real service, and have the honour of participating with you in those difficultys that must inevitably fall to your share, in the execution of your present important & Critical Command. But that I might be instrumental in rendering the completion of those Honours, the more speedy, that will sooner or later fall to the share, of those possessed of abilities, Integrity and Military knowledg like yours and that gained by long experience.

I am Dear General with sentiments of esteem and respect your most obedient Hum Servant,
Ezekiel Cornell³

RC (NHi: Gates Papers). Misdated "11 Augt. 1780" in Burnett, *Letters*, 5:339.

¹ For this August 9 resolution, see James Lovell to Benjamin Franklin, August 15, 1780.

² Cornell had commanded a Rhode Island militia brigade during Gates' command of the Continental forces in Rhode Island in 1779.

³ Cornell also wrote the following brief letter to Gates later this day:

"Since writing this day I am informed from good Authority that the Torys in the state of Delaware have lately armed themselves to the Number of 2 or 300 and imbodyed but have been routed by the Militia and a number killed and wounded on both sides. I inclose you a yesterdays paper in wich you will se that mobbs are mischevious in London." Gates Papers, NHi.

Whitmell Hill to Thomas Burke

Sir, Philadelphia August 20th. 1780.

Your favors of 18th June and 1st of July have reached me, and am sorry for your misfortune of foundering in a Marsh but hope you have met with no other Inconveniences on your Journey; I now write you, supposing you to be devoted to Mars, and at the head of some victorious Party warm in pursuit of their fugitive Enemies. This opinion is grounded on Intelligence recd. at this place, two days past, by a Flag of Truce in 8 Days from Charles-Town, who assert that the currt. Report of the Day at Charles Town, is, that our Army has gained very decisive Advantages in several Actions they have had with the British, and that they are retiring with all possible speed to Charles Town; if this be true, I hope the Chastisement the So. Carolinians have recd. from their new masters, will only have a tendency to make Soldiers of them, and oblige them to make that Resistance as becomes every American in the present Contest. I hope too, that our distress Militia who have been obliged to Rescue that Country from the Dominion of Britain, will claim to themselves some Compensation for their Services, which Compensation they will sieze on,

and bring home to their ruined Families; this plundering, I should not generally encourage, but in the present Instance, I think it justifiable, and wish from my heart it may be put into Execution. I observe what you say relative to the Supplies being called from Virginia, and the cause you suppose to be the occasion of such a Blunder (viz.) the Committee at Camp; this Committee is at length dissolved, as experience convinced Congress that they daily engaged them in Quarrels with the Army, instead of correcting any of the Abuses they were intended to inspect; they brought about a Resignation of Genl. Greene as Q. M. Genl. which Resignation was accompanied with a disrespectful Letter to Congress, and was very near bringing about his total Dismission. T. Pickering is appointed to fill his place, how the Department will be conducted in future, we cannot say, but have been told by the Committee at Camp that if Genl. Green was dismissed, our Army must immediately disband. Congress have for once had Firmness enough to persist, what Evils may ensue, we cannot tell, as yet, we have experienced no uncommon one. Our Finances are much in the Situation you left them; for a few Days we have a few thousands in the Treasury, but it is as suddenly exhausted; however we are in daily expectation of the new Emissions being brot. from the Eastern States to the Treasury, how they will circulate at par with Specie when the present Continental Bills are cast at 75 for one I leave you to guess. The States have all adopted the plan, except the three Southern ones, and I suppose on the next meeting of our Assembly, they will come into it. Congress has a few Days past recd. Dispatches from Mr. Jay as late as 27th May, in which he is very particular & satisfactory; he gives us room to hope that our Draughts on him will be answered, but informs us that they will call on him to contract for Repayment in some special manner, for which purpose he calls on us for particular Instructions; he is informed by the Spanish Minister, that his Master is particularly determined with respect to the Navigation of Mississippi & wishes to limit our Western Boundary far short of that River, in this he urges special Instructions, which he is determined to act by literally. The Minister hopes it may be possible to influence his Master to grant the Navigation of the River with certain Restrictions as to contraband Articles &c. but this is matter of doubt, he informs us that no Treaty can effectually take place till these matters are more fully explained by Congress. He mentions that the Divisions that prevailed in Congress soon after he came to the Chair had reached that Court, and had tended much to lessen the Reputation of Congress, that the people of that Country are generally averse to the Americans, not believing it possible that the Roman Catholick Religion was ever tolerated in America much less placed equal to any other Sectary; but that he believed the Ministry were well attached to the Cause.

The Aid expected from France when you left us arrived at Rhode-

Island 12th July, consisting of 8 Ships of the Line & 4 Frigates with 5000 Men on board. A few Days after Admiral Graves arrived at N.Y. with 6 Ships of the Line, and on being joined by Adml. Arbuthnot with the Ships of War at N.Y. proceeded to block up the French Fleet in R. Island, which they have effected, and for the present, suspends the intended Operations against N.Y. However, we have daily expectations of the Arrival of a 2d Aid of ships & Men from France so as to give us a decided Superiority by Sea, should no Accident befall this Aid, we make no doubt of effecting the Reduction of N.Y. before the campaign is closed. Genl. Washington's Army at this time consists of more than 25000 Men, so that could we obtained the superiority by Sea, I believe the Business would be easily settled.

Congress has ordered the Virga. Troops as fast as completed to join the Southern Army, and we have been fortunate enough to procure Bills of Exchange for 100000 Dollars in Specie to be sent to the Aid of the Military Chest in the Southern Department, this is all we can hope for at the present; in fact they appear very averse to granting Aid to us, so that we must rely greatly on our own Resources.

Miss Hart enjoys a good share of Health, but seems much dejected since your Departure, and wishes to return home. I encourage her to persist in her Education, particularly her Musick. I believe Mrs. Burdau is rather too strict with the young Ladies is the principal reason of her uneasiness. I shall supply her occasionally with pocket-Money and have her to see Mrs. Jones & Mrs. Hill frequently, as we are now become Housekeepers, finding it not so agreeable at Mrs. Jones's as we could wish. I have to solicit your Return to this place by first of Nov. or if you decline it, urge Mr. Sharpe to be here by that time, as there is an absolute necessity for my leaving this, by the 10th of that Month to return home. Mr. Jones & Lady, Mrs. Hill & self, join in Complts. to Mrs. Burke and self, and am Dr. Sir Yrs. most sincerely,

Whit. Hill

RC (Nc-Ar: Burke Papers). Tr (*N.C. State Records*, 15:56-58). RC damaged; missing words taken from Tr.

Willie Jones to Samuel Johnston

Dr. Sr.¹

Philada. Augt. 21. 1780.

I recd. two of your favours some time ago, but I delayed writing to you, in hopes that a few days would enable me to give you something very important and decisive: but it is impossible to say with precision what will be the Event of the present military Exertions in this Quarter.



Willie Jones

Genl. Washington's army including the Garrison at West point & Militia already with him, or in Motion so as to join at short Notice must at this time amount to about 30,000 Men. The french Force now at Rhode Island is 5,000 Land Forces, under Count De Rochambaud and 8 Ships of the Line under Admiral Ternay and three or four Frigates. G.W. commands the whole & the Officers are directed by his M. C. Majesty to pay him all the honours due to a Marshal of France. Admiral Graves with 10 Ships of the Line & seven or eight Frigates lies between Block Island & point Judith & completely blocks up the French Fleet. An additional French armament of Line of Battle Ships and Land forces is expected; should they arrive in time and give us a Superiority on the Water, N.York in all human probability must fall; without this Superiority I fear it will be impracticable to reduce it, nor do I know that Genl. Washington will make the attempt.

Congress have empowered and directed Genl. Washington to form a plan for recovering So. Carolina and Georgia; but so as not to interfere with the immediate Operations agt. N.York.

The Regular troops raising in Virginia are ordered to join Genl. Gates, and Congress have voted 100,000 Dollars in Specie, in Bills on France, to supply the Military Chest in the Southern Department. Governor Rutledge, I believe, will take the Bills on with him in a few days.

We have been and still are exceedingly embarrassed for Money, most or all of the States having failed to comply fully with the Money Requisitions made by Congress. The New Money is ready for some of the States and will soon be thrown into Circulation, I hope this will give us some Relief; but I tremble for the Event.

We have Intelligence from Mr. Jay our Minister at the Court of Spain. Nothing decisive was done there; but it appears that the Spanish Monarch is friendly to us & inclined to second our Operaitons agt. G. Britain.

I inclose you a paper which will give you some Idea of the Distraction prevailing in England. A London paper of June 12 came in the Falmouth packet; this paper is smuggled by some of the Tories; we are told it contains this Intelligence, that Matters had grown worse & worse, an Attempt had been made by the Mob on the Bank of England, a good deal of Blood spilt on the Occasion, Lord George [Gordon] sent to the Tower, Martial Law declared [. . .] a Million of Money granted to the King for his Tryal & for bringing other Offenders to Ju[stice] and to defray the Damage done by the Mob.²

I must request the favour of you to relieve me if you can without great Inconvenience, about the last of October. I am heartily tired of this place & wish to be at home as soon as possible; add to this that it will be very disagreeable to travel if the cold Weather should set in before I take my Departure, and will make it difficult for me

to get on, as I have lost the only good Horse I had, and the State of my Finances are such that I shall not be able to purchase any thing more than a Garron,³ if I can accomplish that. It will be essentially necessary to bring a considerable Sum of Money with you, as I presume Mrs. Johnston will accompany you or to⁴

Be so kind as to send the inclosed papers to Mr. Robt. Smith when you have read them & to assure [him] of my highest Regard. I will write to him [by the] next post if any thing worth communicating.

[. . .x]ebeck Ships taken}⁵

FC (Nc-Ar: Legislative Papers). In the hand of Willie Jones.

¹ Samuel Johnston is identified in these *Letters*, 1:398n.1.

² Jones is referring to the "No-Popery" disorders of June 1780 involving the London followers of Lord George Gordon, a member of Parliament and president of the Protestant Association. There were rumors in London that French and American agents had encouraged the agitation. See John P. DeCastro, *The Gordon Riots* (London: H. Milford, Oxford University Press, 1926).

³ "A small and inferior kind of horse bred and used chiefly in Ireland and Scotland." *OED*.

⁴ Sentence left incomplete.

⁵ It appears that Jones intended to provide a list of recent naval captures but left off the attempt at this point.

Artemas Ward to the Massachusetts Council?

Sir,¹

Philadelphia August 21, 1780.

The inclosed letter came to hand this day per Post and supposing it to be Private thought proper to forward it to you.² Doctor Shipping is discharged by Congress from his arrest. I wish our States Quota of money might be forwarded on without delay, as also their Supplies of Provisions &c as they are extreamly wanted.

I understand the Council are desirous to know whether Forrage Supplied the French Troops will be considered and carried to the Credit of Massachusetts State. This matter has not been determined by Congress, but my private Opinion is, that it will not, for that Quota of Forrage was laid on the State, for the use of the main Army, without any regard to our Allies, by the Committe at HeadQuarters which Committe is recalled and ordered to make report to Congress.³

I am Sir with Respect, and Esteem your, Obedient Humble Servant. In haste,

Artemas Ward

RC (NNPM: Generals of the American Revolution).

¹ This letter was apparently addressed to the president of the Massachusetts Council, James Bowdoin.

² Enclosure not found.

³ Congress' response to the council's query, which, as Ward predicted, denied the

state credit for forage furnished to the French army, was adopted on August 26. See Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council, August 29, 1780.

Samuel Adams to James Bowdoin

My Dear Sir,

Phila. Aug. 22, 1780

I have received your favor of the 31st of July¹ & forwarded the letter inclosed to Mrs. Reed who resides in the country.²

The Count de Rochambeau, in a letter to Congress,³ speaks very highly of the attention of the Government of Massachusetts, & of the appearance of the numerous Militia so seasonably forwarded when an attack was expected in Rhode Island. And the Minister of France, who on every occasion expresses his great regards for that state, mentioned the same thing to its Delegates in the most flattering terms. It is a pity that a Militia, always ready to turn out with a view of doing essential service, should be disappointed. They were so full of ardor that the Count was under a necessity of urging their return to their necessary affairs at home, with the promise of their being again called for, when Genl. Washington should judge that the circumstances of affairs should require it. We are impatient for the arrival of the 2d division of the French Squadron, which we are informed by letters from Boston was spoke with near a month ago by a vessel bound to Salem. The season is advancing fast, & our troops must daily consume provision the bare transportation of which is an immense cost. I perceive that the General Assembly stands further prorogued to the 31st of this month. I am sorry that a state of our claim of territory in the New Hampshire Grant has not yet been forwarded to Congress; for although it is my wish as an individual that this uncomfortable dispute may subside till a more convenient season, yet I would not willingly be under the necessity of saying, when called upon after so long notice, that our state is not ready. It might have the appearance of a consciousness in ourselves, that our claim is not well founded.

Our new Constitution⁴ is much approved of by many gentlemen here. I understand it is soon to be in force. I do most earnestly pray that Heaven may direct the people to the choice of a wise man for their Governor, & incline him to accept of the trust.

The post is just going, which obliges me to conclude.

I am with very great respect,

Your assured friend & Very hble. Servt, S.Adams.⁵

MS not found; reprinted from *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1st ser. 12 (1871-73): 229-30.

¹ Bowdoin's July 31 letter to Adams is in *ibid.*, p. 229.

² That is, a letter from Bowdoin's wife, Elizabeth Erving Bowdoin, to Esther DeBerdt Reed. Ibid.

³ See Committee of Congress Report on Rochambeau's Letter, August 17; and Samuel Huntington to Rochambeau, August 19, 1780.

⁴ That is, the new constitution of Massachusetts, drafted in a convention over which Bowdoin had presided.

⁵ Adams' correspondence during this period also includes a brief hortatory letter of August 17 to his daughter Hannah, acknowledging a recent letter and full of expressions of conventional piety. William V. Wells, *The Life and Public Services of Samuel Adams*, 3 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1865), 3:53-54.

Connecticut Delegates to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir

Philadelphia August 22d 1780

The Inclosed Papers Contain the most Recent Intelligence we have of a Publick Nature from abroad. The Armed Neutrality of so many Powerful Nations in Europe together with the Commotions in England are by no means Discouraging to these States.

A Letter from Mr Jay at the Spanish Court Dated at Madrid the 27th of May¹ last mentions that in Conference with a Spanish Minister he Recd. Encouragement that the Bills of Congress Drawn on him to the Amount of one Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling would (with some Difficulty) be honored That they had also Conferred on the Subject of a Treaty but Came to no Conclusion.

Congress have Recalled their Committee from Head Quarters which will Prevent any further Correspondence with those Gentlemen in that Capacity.

Majr Genll Green has Resigned his Office of Quarter Master General and Col Pickeron² is appointed & in the Execution of that Trust.

All the States (Excepting Delaware) as far Southward as Virginia Inclusively have Adopted the Resolutions of Congress of the 18th of March and will be furnished as fast as Possible with their Several Quotas of the New Bills which are Exceedingly wanted in Every Department.

If every State would Tax themselves to the Extent of their Abilities Relieving the Poor as far as Possible we should find it the Best Resource in our Power to obtain Supplies and Save the Continent from that Enthralment of Debt which may be Expected from Loans. This Doctrine (tho Trite) is no less Important than True and Deserves the most Serious Attention.

The Current Expences of the War are Chiefly of our own Services, Provisions & Manufactures which do not much Exceed our Annual Exports in Time of Peace. This alone is Demonstration that our Internal Resources are nearly Equal to our Necessities and might

with Proper Management be so applied as to Prevent an Innormous National Debt to Foreigners who may hereafter Claim the Honor & Merit of our whole Salvation as Due to them and Surprize us with unexpected Demands.

At Present we have but a Small Prospect of Loans from Spain and as Mr Lawrens has lately Sailed for Holland the Success of his Negotiations will not soon be Known.

We are with Sentiments of the highest Esteem & Respect your Excellency's Most Humble Servants.

Roger Sherman

Benj Huntington

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). Written by Sherman, and signed by Sherman and Benjamin Huntington.

¹ Actually John Jay's letter of May 26, 1780, read in Congress on August 14, rather than his brief May 27 letter read on August 16. See Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, note 2; and James Lovell to Henry Laurens, August 15, 1780, note 3.

² That is, Timothy Pickering.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir

Philadelphia August 22nd. 1780.

I do my self the honour to write your Excellency by this post. Altho I have in my former letters, mentioned the exhausted state, of the continental Treasury, I have not mentioned it on an occasion, in which I was so immediately Interested as in the present. On the ——— day of July last,¹ I obtained a warrant, on the Treasury, for 5,000 dollars, for which the state was to be accountable. As will appear by the Journals of Congress for that month, I have not been able to obtain one shilling of the grant, nor do I see the most distant prospect. I am entirely destitute of Cash, even sufficient to pay for one weeks washing. Notwithstanding I have borrowed 2500 dollars of Colo. Pettit, which is now wanted. I am also in arear for my Board, and that is expected to be paid every week, and really wanted. Board is exceeding scarce to be got in this City. And generally undertaken, by people in scanty circumstances, who want the money due for one week, to go to market the Next. My Board now Costs me one Guinea per week for my self, exclusive of any kind of licquor and half that sum for a servant in Specia or the exchange at 75 for one, which is much less than many of the members pay, or than I paid for the first Six weeks. This is truly my situation, and I know of no releif but through your interposition which necessity obliges me earnestly to entreat. I am sorry to trouble you with a request of this kind. At a time when I am sure your time must be fully employed in business of the Utmmost importance. And would not have made the application if it was in my power to obtain relief in any other way.

By letters this day read in Congress from Head Quarters,² there is neither Bread or Flesh on hand, sufficient to serve the Army two Days, to which let me add the state of the Treasury. I must then beg liberty to refer my feelings on the Ocasion to your own Judgment. I can not help mentioning these Occurencies to you, perhaps it may be two much Occasioned by an Overheated Zeal for the Cause we are ingaged in. I can assure you it arises from no ill design; and must beg you & the Honl. Genl Assembly, to pardon me in what ever is over prompt, read in private what they shall think necessary, and expunge what ever shall appear superfluous in this & my former Lett.

I take the liberty to mention one other malencolly circumstance among others that at this time present themselves to my vew on relateing this. The *Torys* in the lower County of Deleware grew inad at paying Taxes; about 300 of them flew to Arms and bid defiance to all authority. The Militia of the state was called out & have Quelled the rioters, but not without the loss of a Number Killed and wounded on both sides. I have not yet been able to obtain all the particulars but this is certain.

Since my last, Congress have receivd. a letter from Mr. Jay, dated Madrid the 30th of May,³ by which it appears a difficulty is likly to arise in Settling a Treaty with the Spanish Court. The King of Spain by his minister demands as one Article in the Treaty, The free, Intire and absolute Navigation of the River Mississippi, Which measure Congress will not willingly agree to.⁴

I have the Honour to be your Excellencys Most obedt and Most
Hume Servant, Ezek Cornell

NB. Sinc writing the above Mr. Houston one of the Delegates of the State of N. Jersey Delivered me a Schedule of the Acts of their General Assembly and wishes one of ours in return May be Sent. I have inclosed the one I Rd. and should one be Sent I shall take Care to se it delivered.

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ That is, July 29. *JCC*, 17:678.

² Cornell is almost certainly referring to letters of August 17 and 19 from General Washington and from the Committee at Headquarters, which were read in Congress on August 23. *JCC*, 17:759-60. Because no letters "from Head Quarters" were read on August 22, Cornell may actually have completed this letter on August 23.

³ Jay's May 30 letter was read in Congress on August 21. See *JCC*, 17:749; *PCC*, item 110, 1:182; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 3:742.

⁴ It is undoubtedly no coincidence that on August 22 the delegates of Virginia chose to lay before Congress "instructions from their constituents" concerning the navigation of the Mississippi, which were read and "referred to the committee on the extract of Mr. Jay's letter, of 26 May." *JCC*, 17:755. They are, however, not in *PCC*, but in the Continental Congress Miscellany, DLC. They are endorsed by Charles Thomson: "Instructions to delegates of Virginia Nov. 5. 1779. Read Aug 22, 1780. Referred to Mr Jones, Mr Walton, Mr McKean."

John Hanson to Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Dr. sir

Philadelphia August 22d. 1780

I am favoured yours of the 15th for Which I am much obliged,¹ it affords many useful hints which shall be duely Considered. I have only time now Just to Acquaint you that our Army is Still at Dobbs's ferry daily increasing, the British fleet off Rhode Island. The french have raised a fortification at Newport which Secures their Shipping & Clinton is on Long Island, about 20 miles above N York. Our part of the new money will be finished in a day or two. For news refer you to the inclosed paper. My Compliments to Mr Carroll and the Ladies And Am, Dr sir with real regard, Your most hble Sert,

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Carroll Papers).

¹ Carroll's file copy of this letter is in the Carroll Papers, MdHi.

Samuel Huntington to Joseph Reed

Sir,

Philadelphia August 22d. 1780

In your Letter of the 5 which was this Day read in Congress, you are pleased to inform Congress, that "on the first Day of June last an Act of Assembly passed adopting the resolutions for calling in the Bills in Circulation, and emitting new Bills on certain Funds, but with a suspending Clause of its Operation until a Majority of the States should pass Laws of a similar Nature:" that "an official Declaration from his Excellency the President of Congress or the Delegates of the State to the Supreme Executive Council, that a Majority of the States had passed Laws to the above Effect would immediately give Efficacy to the Law of this State."

I am therefore now to inform you, that a Majority of the United States have passed Laws adopting the resolutions of the 18 March 1780 for calling in the Continental Bills in Circulation, and emitting new Bills on certain Funds.¹

I have the Honour to be with the highest Esteem & regard, your most humble Servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (OCIWHi: Norton Collection). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington. Addressed: "His Excellency the President & Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania."

¹ *JCC*, 17:750. Reed's letter of the 5th, which was actually read in Congress on August 21 and is endorsed by Charles Thomson "Proceedings of the state in pursuance

of the requisitions of Congress agreeably to the requests of 17 & 23 June," is in PCC, item 69, 2:258-90. It is in *Pa. Archives*, 1st ser. 8:458-68, under the date July 30, 1780. See also Huntington to the States, June 21, 1780.

John Mathews to Philip Schuyler

My Dear sir,

Camp Tappan Augt. 23. 1780

I last evening received an Order of Congress for dissolving our Committee & that we should immediately make a *report* of our proceedings to Congress.¹ What they mean by making a *report* [I] dont understand.² In consequence of this mandate we quit Camp today, & purpose halting at Morris Town for you untill the first of next month, in order, that we may settle some plan for our future conduct. I think from what I can understand of the complexion of things in C—— we stand on delicate ground, & that prudence dictates to us to be prepared to meet them, on whatever ground they plan to take. I hope you will seriously think of returning to C—— for it is not in my power to stand bluff to the whole Phalanx. I have a great deal to say to you, therefore hope I shall see you before I go for Philadelphia.

I am My Dr. sir, with sincere Esteem, Yr. most obed. serv.

Jno. Mathews

RC (NN: Philip Schuyler Papers).

¹ For the "Order of Congress for dissolving our Committee," which was endorsed "Recd. the 21st Inst.," see Samuel Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, August 12, 1780.

² The report of the Committee at Headquarters that was submitted to Congress on November 16 bears the date November 1, 1780, but it was substantially agreed upon before that time. It is not known precisely how it was composed, but the draft in PCC is in Schuyler's hand. Although Schuyler's precise whereabouts in late August and early September cannot be established, Mathews apparently joined Nathaniel Peabody in Morristown at that time, and the two of them, with committee clerks Abraham Brasher, Jr., and Benjamin Brown, sat down to the task of organizing four months of correspondence and papers pertaining to the committee's work, which were transcribed into a single letterbook of "Proceedings," and to which the committee's final report, signed only by Mathews and Peabody, was ultimately appended. See PCC, item 11; and item 39, especially 1:236-38 of the latter for Schuyler's draft committee report. A copy of the committee's "Proceedings" is also in the Peabody Papers, NhHi.

The report itself, with which Mathews is here concerned, is printed in *JCC*, 18:1061-62. It is essentially a justification of the position taken in the committee's letter to Congress of July 18, for which they had been rebuked on August 2. See Committee at Headquarters to Samuel Huntington, July 18, notes 11 and 14; Huntington to the Committee, August 3; and Committee to Huntington, August 16, 1780, note 2.

For the difficulties that Mathews encountered when he returned alone to Philadelphia—neither Peabody nor Schuyler ever attended Congress again—and the resentment he felt at the reception that was accorded him, see Mathews' letters to Washington, September 15, and to Peabody, October 3, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 24, 1780

By the Act of Congress herewith enclosed you will observe, that, the Court Martial having acquitted Doctor Shippen he is discharged from Arrest.¹

Your Excellency will also receive enclosed an Act of Congress of the 22 Instant, subjecting Delinquents in the Departments of the Quarter Master General, Commissary General of Purchases, and of Issues, Clothier General, Commissary General of Military Stores, Purveyor General of the Hospitals, and Hide Department to Trial by Court Martial.²

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellencys most obedient humble servant,

Sam. Huntington President³

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For Congress' August 18 confirmation of the court martial verdict acquitting Dr. William Shippen, Jr., director general of Continental hospitals of the charges brought against him by Dr. John Morgan, see *JCC*, 17:744-46; and John Armstrong to Horatio Gates, July 21, 1780, note.

² See Huntington to the Committee at Headquarters, July 26, 1780, note 2.

³ This day Huntington also wrote letters to New York governor George Clinton and to Abraham Yates, commissioner of the Continental loan office for New York, notifying them that Yates had been appointed "to endorse the bills of credit to be issued by the State of New York, in pursuance of the resolutions of Congress of the 18 day of March last," and that in the event of Yates' disability, Abraham G. Lansing was authorized to endorse such bills. See *PCC*, item 15, fol. 83; and *JCC*, 17:751.

Samuel Huntington to Timothy Pickering and Ephraim Blaine

Sir, Philada August 25. 1780

You will receive enclosed an Act of Congress of the 23 Instant containing certain regulations to be observed with respect to all Certificates that may be issued in the Departments of the Quartermaster General & Commissary General.

These regulations may be immediately put in Practice, and no Certificates issued under any other regulations after the 15 of September will be regarded.¹

I have the Honor to be, &c, &c, &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: *PCC*, item 15). Addressed: "Colo Pickering Quarter Master General. The like to Colo Blaine Commy. Genl."

¹ The enclosed regulations specifying the conditions under which the commissary and quartermaster departments would be permitted to issue certificates which would

also now bear interest at 6% per annum, were adopted in response to an August 12 letter from Pickering proposing that, in view of the unavailability of currency, his department be authorized to issue certificates "for all services performed or articles purchased . . . for which any credit is given." The letter had been referred on the 14th to the Board of Treasury, which submitted a report on the 22nd that was adopted August 23. See *JCC*, 17:727, 757, 760-62; and *PCC*, item 192, fols. 21-23. See also Robert R. Livingston's Proposed Resolves, August 17-24; and Huntington to the States, September 2, 1780.

Committee of Congress to William Shippen, Jr.

Dr Sir,

Philada. Aug 26th. 1780.

Your Letter of this Day was immediately after the Receipt thereof laid before the Committee, to whom Your former Letter was referred, & I am directed by them to inform You that in their Opinion the Waggon Horses belonging to the Public ought to be put under the Care of the Quartermaster, who will from Time to Time furnish the Hospital Department with Teams when necessary, & with Respect to the others the Committee desire to know to whom the Horses belong, what Number each Officer keeps at public Expence & where such Officer is employed. When this Information is given the Committee can with Propriety lay the Matter before Congress.¹

(Copy)

By Order, F. Muhlenb[er]g

Tr (DNA: PCC, item 136).

¹ Shippen had complained on August 22 that the deputy quartermaster at Philadelphia, in obedience to a June 12 cost-cutting congressional resolve, would not issue the medical department more forage without an express order of Congress. The letter was referred to a committee consisting of Abraham Clark, Roger Sherman, and Frederick Muhlenberg, who immediately requested information on the forage needs of the medical staff at Philadelphia. Muhlenberg wrote this letter in reply to Shippen's August 25 response, which the director general subsequently followed up with a more detailed accounting of the use of the 30 horses in his department in keeping with Muhlenberg's demand. The committee's recommendation that the issue be referred to the Board of War "to take order" was adopted by Congress on August 28. See *JCC*, 17:503, 755, 787-88; and *PCC*, item 136, 4:541-51.

Samuel Huntington to Thomas Mumford

Sir,

Philadelphia August 26. 1780

I am favored with your Letter of the 7 Instant, thank you for the Communication you give me on the Subject.

Congress have uniformly adopted the Practice of admitting all Persons within the British Dominions, or under their Government, to remove themselves with their Effects into these United States, in all cases where the Person applying for Permission can give satisfac-

tory Evidence that they have never taken Part against us, and are sincerely desirous to riske their Lives & Fortunes with the Independance of these United States.

This Practice was adopted upon mature Deliberation, as founded, not only upon Principles of Justice & Humanity, but dictated by good Policy. Upon these Principles, Persons with their Effects coming from Ireland under the Character above described are exempted from Capture; and among the Number that have been permitted to come with their Effects and unite with us I have not heard of any Impostor though it is possible there may be an Instance.

The Case of George Howell you mention may be an Imposition,¹ but he gave satisfactory Evidence to Congress of the Sincerity & Uprightness of his Intentions & Proffession to riske his Life & Fortune with the Independance of these States, and that he had never taken any part against us. Persons of undoubted Character testified, that having been on the Island by Permission, Howell had repeatedly told them in confidence, he was determined to leave the island and take Part with his Country, that he knew he must sacrifice whatever he might leave behind and was desirous to bring off his Effects with him, that he had been impelled by Necessity and Family Connections since he came of Age to remain hitherto upon the Island, that he was now fully determined to come off if he could obtain Permission &c.

In short he gave satisfactory Evidence of the Sincerity of his Intentions & Profession to Congress, who have ever appeared very jealous and carefull to guard against Imposition in such Cases and much more in giving Favors or Preference to the Enemies of their Country.

Mr Howell was a perfect Stranger to me and before unheard of, but upon the Representation of his Case, Congress were so far satisfied as to order the President to give him a Permission & Passport for himself and his Effects, which I was bound to obey and indeed as his Case then appear'd, I see no Reason why it should not be granted.

If he be an Impostor and has been guilty of deceiving Congress with Respect to his true Character, they would be very desirous to know it, and have him detected and properly punished.

I should be much obliged to you for any Evidence that may be obtained to prove he has from the Beginning of this War appeared an open avowed Enemy to the Independance of America, and that he is a known Enemy to these States, or that his Professions & Intentions to Congress were not sincere.

I am perswaded that from your known Attachment to the common Cause and Zeal to promote it, you will readily transmit any such Evidence as may be obtained on this Subject, and I can assure you Congress will not be wanting on their Part to adopt proper Pro-

ceedings against any Person that has been guilty of such gross Imposition as is supposed in the present Case and on the other Hand if the Man be sincere and innocent, Justice to him requires it should appear.

The Permission granted to Mr Howell is not an uncommon Privilege, it has been uniformly granted to proper Characters on Application. Congress may have been deceived in Characters, tho' I have never heard of a single Instance. The Case of Mr Howell may be a Deception, if so I most sincerely hope it may be made to appear. The Discovery and Detection is not difficult with those who have the Means of Knowledge, and Justice to our Country requires it should be done.

I have the Honor to be, with Sentiments of Esteem & Respect,
your most obedient Servant,

Sam Huntington

P.S. Since writing the foregoing I have received a letter from Govr. Trumbull on the Same Subject & Shall write him a particular account of the matter.²

S.H.

RC (PPIn). In a clerical hand with signature and postscript by Huntington.

¹ George Howell, who represented himself as a resident of Suffolk County, N.Y., recently come of age, had petitioned Congress in July for a safe conduct pass to remove personal property from Long Island and take up residence in Rhode Island, hoping thereby to anticipate difficulties he might encounter if stopped by patrol boats on his way across the sound. The request was immediately granted, and initially served him well, as he was, as anticipated, intercepted and released enroute to Rhode Island upon displaying his pass. But soon thereafter a move was on foot in Connecticut to have Howell seized, and upon a representation from Gov. Jonathan Trumbull to Gov. William Greene that Howell was an "inimical" person, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Thomas Mumford was one of the several dozen citizens from Groton, New London, and Stonington, Conn., who had demanded Howell's arrest.

Just two days after Huntington sent this explanation concerning the issuance of Howell's passport, he received a letter of protest from Governor Trumbull, which was referred to a committee that immediately responded sympathetically to Connecticut's expressed concerns. Nevertheless, the delegates were reluctant to become further embroiled in Howell's case, which raised the specter of Continental encroachment upon the rights of a state, and consequently Congress resolved merely that President Huntington "explain to Governor Trumbull the circumstances of George Howell's application, and the passport granted to him in consequence thereof." See JCC, 17:591, 788, 795-96; and PCC, item 41, 4:123-25, item 66, 2:91-113. For additional information on Connecticut's campaign against Howell, and Congress' defense of its decision to issue his passport, see Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, September 1, and to George Howell, September 2, 1780. See also Connecticut Delegates to Trumbull, September 1, 1780.

² See Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, September 1, 1780.

Robert R. Livingston to John Jay

Dear John

Philadelphia 26th Augt. 1780

I received yours of the 23d May from Madrid with duplicates

thereof & of the Letters you wrote from Cadiz & Martineco.¹ The original of the first of these came to hand shortly after I wrote my Letter of the 22d Decr. the last never. You have I flatter myself before this time recd. four Letters which I directed to the care of Doctr. Frankling.² I shd. send you duplicates of them were it not that having been home not long since I left all my papers there for which I had no immediate want & the drafts among them. Your remembrance of the pleasurable days of our youth & the scenes in which we mutually bore our parts together with the attractions which this country still has for you afford me the most pleasing hope that neither time nor absence will weaken a friendship which has so long stood the test of both—and this indeed I expected from the steadiness of your temper, but I must confess I had little hope that yr. speedy return would afford me a prospect of deriving that consolation from it in the decline of life to which I looked even while it animated the pursuits & pleasures of youth. You mistake your own heart when you say you are unambitious & without the assurance you have given me I should have believed that that ambition would have kept you continually in the line in which you now are—more especially as the general satisfaction that your appointmt. & conduct since has given will render it the wish of every body less interested in your return than I am to keep you abroad. You tell me nothing of Mrs. Jay tho' I am the more interested in hearing of her health as I am told she is like soon to increase the Deaplomatick body—present my best comps. to her & tell her that on reading her letter to her mother from Martinique I partook both in the pains & pleasures of her voyage.³ I believe I told you not long since⁴ that I had seen your Son & jersey friends who were all well since when I have heard nothing from them but that they are still so. Your son is a very fine boy. We have talked of a match between him & my girl & I have accordingly rejected many advantageous proposals. Mrs. Livingston about Whom you are so obliging as to inquire is very well.

I have not been able to procure the means of using the cypher you direct me to so besides that it is extreemly troublesome & difficult⁵ I shall therefore be obliged to confine What I have to say to meer common occurences & enclose a cypher which you will find very easy & utterly impossible to decypher while the key is concealed as the same figure serves to express a variety of Letters. In order that you may know whether it comes safely to hand, I have in this letter used the precautions mentioned in yours.⁶

Our⁷ advises from the Southward are far from being pleasing after the loss of Charlestown the enemy extended themselves as far in to the country as Cambden which is about 90 miles thro' a thin settled country. They took several other posts so as to secure the greater part of South Carolina. When the militia recovered their first panick & found themselves supported by a body of continental troops they

collected under the command of Genl Gates and were extreemly successful in a variety of skirmishes with them surprizing & cutting off most of their posts when Gates advanced with his main body consisting of about 900 continental troops & 2000 militia to within 7 miles of Cambden where he was attacked by Cornwallis with his whole force. The militia being surprized fled at the first fire & Genl. Gates in order to raly them quited the ground while our regulars remained fighting nor did he stop till he reached Hillsborough which is near 200 miles from which place on the *fourth* day after the battle he writes to us but as he knew nothing of what passed after he left the place and we had reason to conclude from his account that all the continentals were cut off]—But by better advises we learn that they maintained the battle with great spirit after the flight of the militia had enabled the enemy to turn their flanks that they retired in such order as totally to destroy the enimies horse which attacked them on their retreat and it is even said they have brought off] their cannon. Genl D'Calb is dangerously (some say mortally) wounded. No other Officer of distinction as we have yet heard is mising. As we are in hourly expectation of some further information I hope to receive it before I am under a necessity of closing this. We have long been flattering ourselves with a prospect of recovering New York & giving by the assistance of france a descisive blow to the enemy, for this purpose we took measures to augment our army under the command of Genl Washington to 30000 men but our prospects grow more & more faint every day. The first division of the french fleet has been & still continues to be blocked up by a superior fleet at Rhode Island. The second have not yet sailed that we can hear. The militia tired out are returning home. Our Magazines are exhausted & our finances before sufficiently deranged have been still more disordered thereby. Your Old friend the Confederacy is still here owing to our inability to procure the necessary means of fitting her for sea. However I believe that obstacle will be removed in a few days. Our privateers have been uncommonly successful. Every day sees new prizes enter our ports, among others no less than 29 of the Quebeck fleet richly laden have been brought in by the Boston & Salem privateers & twelve more are said to have been taken by a french ship of the line & the remaining 8 fearful to proceed because of the privateers that were cru[s]ing in the gulph of St. Lawrence have put into Halifax. The combined fleets in the West Indies have separated & thereby lost a noble opportunity of taking Jamaica which is in a manner defenceless as Govr Dalling with the greater part of the troops from that Island is said to be upon an expediton to the Spanish settlements in the main. I write you occurences without order just as they arise in my mind because I know that in your situation facts are of more importance to you than deductions from them. But as in proportion to a mans distance from home is his avidity to hear

from it I must not forget our poor little State. She has never rested a moment from her labours, the enemy still harass her on every side. Some of the finest settlements in Tryon County have been cut off[f] & the militia have been in the field the whole season. But her distress has not shaken her firmness, on the contrary toryizm declines among us every day. Our political system moves on much as usual without any great change either of men or measures. Be sure I have a thousand things which I could wish to communicate but I dare not for want of a cypher acknowledge the rect. of this therefore as soon as possible as there are many things you shd. know that you will not be able to learn from our publick Letters. Nothing astonishes me more than the effrontry with which the Ministry & their friends assert that America sighs to return to their government since the fact that we never were more fixed in opposition. Nor if we except the derangement of our finances were we ever so capable of resistance. Our friend Smith is said to have imbibed the ministerial Madness so strongly as to have prevailed on Genl Kniphausen to march out of New York into the Jerseys before Clinton returned from Charlestown hoping that discouraged by the loss of that place & weary of the war the militia would not oppose him. And he shd. (as Mr Smith is said emphatically to have predicted) have the whole honor of terminating the war before the return of his principal the experiment proved the folly of the Idea. The militia flocked together on the 1st summons, some of them taking their horses from the plough rode down full speed hung them to the fences & engaged. People of all ranks & ages collected & all that was effected by an army of 5000 men unopposed except by militia & about 2000 continental troops was the destruction of 20 farm houses & the abuse & murther of some women after which they retired with the loss of 500 men killed, wounded & taken—since which they have been much less sanguine. Adieu. Remember me to the Coll.⁸ & Mr Carnicall. Again offer my affectionate compts to Mrs Jay.

FC (NHi: Robert R. Livingston Papers). In the hand of Livingston.

¹ Jay's letters to Livingston of December 24, 1779, February 19, and May 23, 1780, are in Jay, *Papers* (Morris), pp. 672, 735-37, 757-59.

² Livingston's letters to Jay of December 22, 1779, February 10 and July 6, 1780, are printed in these *Letters*. His October 6, 1779, letter, written before Livingston was elected to return to Congress, is in John Jay, *The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay*, ed. Henry P. Johnston, 4 vols. (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1890-93), 1:245-46.

³ For Sarah Livingston Jay's December 12-26, 1779, letter to Susannah French Livingston, see Jay, *Papers* (Morris), pp. 680-86.

⁴ See Livingston to Jay, July 6, 1780.

⁵ The cipher was keyed to the 1771 London edition of "Boyers Dictionary." Ibid., pp. 736-37.

⁶ The remainder of this letter must have been written after August 31, the day on which General Gates' August 20 letter, which is discussed in the next paragraph, was read in Congress. *JCC*, 17:797.

⁷ Livingston may have omitted the following long paragraph concerning military misfortunes and lost opportunities from the letter he actually sent to Jay. In Henry Johnston's edition of Jay's correspondence (cited in note two above), this passage of the letter, which appears to have been printed from the RC, does not appear. Johnston, ed., *Correspondence of John Jay*, 1:383-85.

⁸ That is, Henry Brockholst Livingston.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir,

Philadelphia August 28th. 1780

I do my self the honour, to inclose to your Excellency, Several late Acts of Congress,¹ Which I have been the more carefull in doing, As I expect the Honourab. the General Assembly, will meet about the time this will reach you. I can not help making some remarks on them, especially the one which is for raising, 3,000,000 of dollars by Tax,² As it is of great importance to these states. If it can be raised by the time limited, It will give such releif as to enable Congress, in some measure to fulfil their promises, and keep up some kind of credit, Provided the New money, goes into circulation, persuant to the resolution of the 18th of March; and Congress are immediately supplied with the four tenths. But the whole taken together, will be short of a sufficiency to discharge the publick debts, of the Current year. But when I consider the Inhabitants, groaning under the burden, of the Monthly Taxes already called for, and the Other incidental charges, that arise in the several states, to which may be added the reluctance with which the Inhabitants, in some of the states pay their Taxes, I almost dispare of the 3,000,000 of dollars *equal in value to silver and gold*, being collected. And without that sum being raised, and the four tenths being punctually paid, I see no practicable means of even keeping the Army together for any Considerable time. And at present I see no other way of raising money than the aforementioned. At the same time my feelings are exceedingly hurt, when I reflect on the inability that I fear my constituents in general labour under in making payments of all the publick money & stores demanded of them. It is a popular opinion here, that the whole expence arising in these states for publick uses is practicable and aught to be paid by publick Taxes within the year, Which will amount to at least 15,000,000 of Dollars of *Specia vallue* upon the most [eco]nomical plan. Borrowing money at present, is scarcely practicable, at home or abroad. A foreign loan cannot be expected, unless a sufficent fund is raised, to pay the Annual Interest, at least, and appropriated to that use, by certain and fixed Laws. The raising such a fund is now under the Con[si]deration of a Committee of Congress appointed for that purpose, they have not reported, but have in contemplation to recommend to the several states to lay a duty of Two & half per Cent on all Exports, or one and a half on all Exports

& imports, And a duty of Two & a half on all prize goods to be appropriated towards the support of the Continental Navy.³

The resolution for liquidating the outstanding debts in the staff departments,⁴ I think must give some satisfaction to the Creditors. And is so just I apprehend it Can give offence to none, Especially where more than an equal proportion is due, as is the Case in Rhode Island. But be that as it will; necessity and policy, obliged us, if we were poor to do something that had the appearance of Honesty. The complaints of publick creditors, were become exceeding loud, & it was intirely out of our power to make payment.

The Resolution empowering the Q.M.G. and C. G. of purchas to give certificates⁵ I hope will give some releif in this time of General distress, for want of money. But there is yet remaining many demands for Money of the greatest importance to the Operations of the present Campaign, that no possible means can yet be found to Supply.

These hints I have thrown together not that I wish to direct or hinder or discourage, any measures that are undertaken, But that I may be directed. By liveing in this City 3 or 4 months I know but little of what will be agreeable to my Constituents, To do which and render my Country real service would be the summit of my ambition. Some of the Members that have been in the City a much longer time, appear to me to know less of the abilitys and disposition of their Constituents than I do, which I apprehend sometimes causes a difference in Sentiment.

I have the honor to be your Excelleny most Obedient Huml
Servant.
Ezekiel Cornell

P.S. I should not be so positive in the anual expences Had I not had the honour to be one of the Comee. appointed to make an Estimate of the Expenxe of the Current year, which as soon as Completed I will endeavour to send you a Coppy of.⁶

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors).

¹ Cornell's precise enclosures are not known, but several are individually mentioned in the letter, and identified in the following notes.

² JCC, 17:782-83.

³ Such proposals had been offered by Robert R. Livingston and Nathaniel Folsom on August 22, when they had been referred to a committee chaired by Cornell. See JCC, 17:723, 758-59; and Edmund C. Burnett, *The Continental Congress* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1941), pp. 475-76.

⁴ JCC, 17:784-86.

⁵ JCC, 17:761.

⁶ Cornell was chairman of this committee, which had been appointed on August 11. JCC, 17:723.

John Hanson to Thomas Sim Lee

Dear sir

Philadelphia August 28th 1780

I have never mist one Post writing to you And my not receiving

Any of your favours for three weeks past induces me to believe you are out of Town. By a former letter I acquainted you that I had in Compliance with your request engaged a Chariot to be made for you by the first week in November next at £210 gold or paper at the exchange. That if you had a Coachmans Seat to it, you would have only two Setts of harness, but if it was made without, four Setts would be furnished and desired your direction. Mrs. Lees Shoes are not yet finished.

I now inclose you a resolve of Congress recommending to the States to raise by Tax's payable in the new Continental money or Specie or other money forty for one, An additional Sum of 3,000,000 of Dollars by the last December next.¹ If you think it indispensably necessary, that this recommendation Should be adopted, and that our people is able to pay the Tax, I presume it will be necessary (to comply with it in time), to Convene the assembly immediately but when the heavy Taxes, the people at present labour under, and the present Scarcety of money is Considered, I Submit it to your Superior Judgment Whether it might not be as well that the matter be postponed 'till the meeting of the new assembly in the fall. You will be pleased to observe that a Compliance with this recommendation will in a manner Contravene our late Law for Emitting fifty thousand pounds, at least it will be to no purpose to Issue it as Whatever we Strike, So much less of the Continental new Bills is to be put into Circulation. Our Embarrassments for want of money daily increases, Large demands from our Staff departments, are daly making, no money in the Treasury, nor none expected in any set, equal to the pressing Demands there is for it. Our army in the field and in daily expectations of going into action and little or no provisions on hand, without our prospects of Supplies are so very unpromising, that I wish the reduction of our Army may not become absolutely necessary.

The Alliance one of the Continental Frigates is Just Arrived at Boston, from Brest. She has some military Stores on Board. Doct A Lee Came passenger in her. No accounts of the Second Division of the French fleet, that Can be depended on. The British fleet Still remain at Rhode Island. Clinton on Long Island and General Washington in the neighbourhood of Dobs's ferry. Our part of the new Bills are Compleated And will be Speedily forwardd. I am under the necessity of requesting the favour of you, if there is any money in the Treasury to Send me up as much as you Can on Acct of my allowance. There is none to be had here, it must be of the present Cont. money. The new will not pass.

I have the honor to be with great esteem & regard, Your Excellencys most hble Servt.

John Hanson

RC (MdHi: Lee, Horsey, and Carroll Papers deposit, 1985).

¹ For this August 26 resolve, see *JCC*, 17:782-83; and Samuel Huntington to the States, September 2, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 28. 1780

Your Excellency will receive herewith enclosed two Acts of Congress of the 12 & 24 Instant making farther Provision for the Army in their present difficult Situation, more especially the Officers and Widows of Officers that have fallen, or may hereafter die in the Service.¹ Congress have now under Consideration the Subject of Depreciation, in order to settle a just Scale of Depreciation for the Army, with as much Accuracy as the Nature of the Case will admit.

I am this Day honored with your Excellency's important Letter of the 20 Instant, which is referred to a Committee, and will no Doubt engage the serious Attention of Congress.²

We have received by this Days Post, just arrived; Intelligence from the Southward that General Gates has formed a Junction with a Body of Troops under General Caswell, within the State of South Carolina, as also various Accounts of some Advantages gained by our Troops in several Rencounters with Detachments of the Enemy, which, so soon as they can be digested and reduced to a proper Degree of Certainty, I shall do myself the Honor to communicate for your Information.

I have the Honor to be, with the highest Respect, your Excellencys most obedient servant, Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ For these resolves, which were an outgrowth of a petition from the general officers of the Continental Army that had been under consideration for some time, see *JCC*, 17:725-27, 770-73. Although Huntington's letter is silent on the point, the enclosed resolves prepared by Secretary Charles Thomson also included one of the 25th, which specified "That the half pay of general officers be proportioned to their pay." *JCC*, 17:778.

Huntington also sent the resolves of the 12th and 24th to the states under cover of a brief circular of the 29th which repeated this opening sentence to Washington verbatim. PCC, item 15, fol. 86.

² See *JCC*, 17:786; PCC, item 152, 9:83-100; and Washington, *Writings* (Fitzpatrick), 19:402-13.

Ezekiel Cornell to William Greene

Dear Sir, Philadelphia August 29th. 1780

Since the inclosed letter of the 27th Instant,¹ Several matters of Importance, have been laid before Congress, which I think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency of.

Firstly a long letter from General Washington,² giving a Summary Account of the Complaints of the Army, truly great if not alarming, stating to Congress the absolute necessity of giving relief, Also the ill policy of Bringing men into the Field for short periods; together

with many more difficultys, too tedious to trouble your Excellency with. Also the proceedings of the Committee from the N England States,³ which I make no doubt your Excellency hath recieved a Coppy of, before this will reach you. All which hath been referred to a Committee, that wass before Appointed to make an Estimate of the expence of the Current and ensuing years, and to provide ways & means for furnishing the necessary Supplies. It appears at present that Congress are determined to recommend spirited Measures to the several states which I hope they will adopt, that we may no longer lull ourselves to sleep by a false hope of a peace, or ruin our selves by frequent alterations in Our Systems in the great Departments which our Army now feel the effects of in a Severe Manner. I should have been exceeding happy to know the Sentiments of the Honl. General Assembly on the proceedings of the Committee of the New England States, the more so as it appears Govr. Bradford was not present. Many and perplexing are the difficultys that attend the Measures undertaken by Congress. But this I can assure your Excellency, that I never had the honour to be acquainted with any sett of men whatever, in which party made so little appearance, as in the present Congress; and nothing appears at present to be their wish but the public good.

Yesterday a Letter from Governor Trumble, was read in Congress, accompanied with letters and petitions to him, from the Inhabitants of N London, Groton and Stonington, Complaining of the proceedings of Dr. Howel, in Bringing goods from Long Island, to Paukatuck River, Supposing the Protection signed by the president of Congress was illegal, or a forgery. But for the present let it suffice for me to say, the protection was legally obtained in Congress upon a representation that he was a friend to these states; and that it was the interest and ought to be the policy of them, to introduce all such people and their property, into them, As power & dominion, consists in the Numbers, and wealth of Inhabitants.⁴

One resolution I have mentioned, is in the inclosed newspaper, to which I beg liberty to refer you, as I had not time to Coppy it, some other late Acts of Congress have passed, that I should have been happy to Inclosed; but had not time to Coppy them, I hope the One inclosed respecting the Flower will enable Mr. Southwick to repay all he hath Borrowed, as well of the Inhabitants as our Allies.⁵

My inclosing these Resolutions will not hinder the Secretary of Congress, from forwarding them in the Usual manner. But lest they should not arive before the Assembly should rise, I have done my self the Honour to Inclose them as I suppose they wish to know what we are about.

I have the Honour to be your Excellency's most obedient, Humble
 Servant,
 Ezek Cornell

RC (R-Ar: Letters to Governors). Staples, *Rhode Island*, pp. 310-12. RC damaged, missing words supplied from Tr.

¹ Undoubtedly Cornell's letter to Greene of August 28.

² See the preceding entry, note 2.

³ The proceedings of this New England committee, which met at Boston on August 3, were enclosed in an August 21 letter from Gov. Jonathan Trumbull of Connecticut. See PCC, item 66, 2:75-90. These documents and the letter from Washington mentioned above were referred to the same committee, of which Cornell was a member. *JCC*, 17:786, 790. For the results of this committee's activities, see Samuel Huntington to Washington, October 4, 1780.

⁴ For the case of George Howell, see Samuel Huntington to Thomas Mumford, August 26, 1780, note 1.

⁵ For Congress' recommendation that Connecticut supply 250 barrels of flour to Solomon Southwick, deputy commissary general of issues, see Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, this date.

John Hanson to Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Dear sir

Philadelphia Aug. 29th 1780

I am favoured with your two letters by the post for which I am much obliged to you. It always gives me much pleasure when I receive a line from you.

Congress had a letter from Mr Jay Dated Madrid May 26th, 1780.¹ It is very long and the Contents of some parts of it I am not at liberty to make Known. Sir John Dalrymple with his Lady was then at Madrid. He Came from Lisbon by Land under pretense of Travelling through Spain and France to England on account of His Ladys health. However he requested a Conference with the Count de Florida Blanca the minister of Spain who told him that what ever he had to propose must be in writing, upon which Sir John in a day or two after Sent him a paper a Copy whereof is inclosed which I send you as more Acceptable, than any thing I have at present to Communicate—must request you will Keep it together, and after purusal, Send it inclosed to Doct. Thomas at Frederick Town where it will again fall into my hands. You will be pleased to request the Doct. to Keep it to himself. Our embarrassments from the Deranged State of our finances, are daily increasing, and how we Shall Keep up the necessary Supplies for our Army I am at a loss to Conceive. No money in the Treasury nor none expected in any Sort equal to the pressing Demands, which are daily made by the Staff departments. Bills of Exchange would procure us money but drawing without a probability of their being paid is discouraging. Yet I believe the measure must be adopted from necessity. No Certain Accounts of the Second Division of the French fleet—The British are Still at Rhode Island on the Watch—Clinton on Long Island and General Washington in the neighbourhood of Dobbs's ferry.

The Alliance one of the Continental frigates is Just Arrived at Boston from Brest, With Some Military Stores. Doctr. Art. Lee is Come passenger. I suppose we Shall have him here in a few days With his Books and papers.

I am in hast Dear sir With usual esteem & regard, Your most hble
Servant,
John Hanson

[P.S.] Our part of the new Bills is at last Compleated and will be forwarded immediately.

RC (MdHi: Carroll Papers).

¹ See Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, 1780, note 2.

Samuel Huntington to the Massachusetts Council

Sir, Philada August 29. 1780

By the Act of Congress of the 26 Instant herewith enclosed you will be informed, that the french Army was not considered in the general Estimate of Supplies called for by Congress, and therefore that State cannot be credited on its Quota for such Articles as it may furnish to our Allies.¹

I have the Honor to be, &c &c &c

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The enclosed resolve was adopted in response to a Massachusetts Council letter of inquiry that was submitted to a committee on August 22. Neither the council's letter nor the committee's report is in PCC, but Massachusetts delegate Artemas Ward briefly discussed the subject in a letter to the council when the query was received. See *JCC*, 17:759, 786; and Artemas Ward to the Massachusetts Council, August 21, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Timothy Pickering

Sir, Philada August 29. 1780

You will receive enclosed an Act of Congress of the 28 Instant, directing you to procure & send to the southern Army one thousand Soldiers Tents; the Board of Treasury to report Ways & Means to pay for the same.

By the same Act you are also authorized & directed to make Sale of all public Buildings, and other Property belonging to the United States under your Care, which in your Opinion are not wanted for public Use, and render an Account thereof to the Board of Treasury.¹

I am Sir &c &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ *JCC*, 17:787-88.

Samuel Huntington to Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.

Sir, Philadelphia August 29. 1780

Your Excellency will receive enclosed an Act of Congress of the 28 Instant, recommending to the Executive Council of Connecticut to supply on Account of that State's Quota, Solomon Southwick Deputy Commissary Genl of Issues, (in the State of Rhode Island) with two hundred & fifty Barrels of Flour on or before the last Day of September next.

Sam. Huntington President¹

This is to enable him to replace what he hath borrowed of the French at Newport on public Account.²

I have the Honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedient Servant.

RC (Ct: Trumbull Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Although Huntington carelessly placed his signature at this point, the remainder of the letter was not intended as a postscript, which is clear from both the physical appearance of the RC and the copy entered in the presidential letterbook, PCC, item 15, fol. 86.

² Congress adopted this resolve in consequence of an August 5 appeal from Southwick written from Providence, which was read and referred to committee on August 21. See *JCC*, 17:749, 763, 789; and PCC, item 78, 20:533-36.

Huntington also sent a copy of this resolve with a brief letter of this date to Southwick. PCC, item 15, fol. 86.

Thomas McKean to Joseph Reed

Dear Sir, Philadelphia. August 29th. 1780

Yesterday morning I received your favor of Saturday by Mr. Sterrett.¹ Congress have for a month past been so distressed for want of money, that nothing but hope could have supported them under it, and that hope, to wit, remittances from the States Eastward of Virginia (the others being reserved for the Southern army) has now failed them; almost all the taxes are swallowed up in discharging debts contracted in the Quarter Master's & Commissary's departments, and what little surplus remained, we are told by all the States, is employed in equipping & marching the militia on the present expedition. Had the whole been paid into the Treasury of the United States, it would have amounted but to a third part in value of the sum expected, the depreciation having trebled since the requisition made of the several States. You now see our situation: all the resource we have is the new money; if that should not freely circulate, or

should it speedily depreciate, we shall be at our wit's end; however recent steps have been taken to give it vigor. I fear we shall at last be compelled to have recourse to the Tories, for one of Charles the 1st's Benevolences. In short, we seem to be all very grave, and the General's late letters are much more so than usual: however, si male nunc, et olim non erit.² Let us but make prisoners of the British army at New-York, and all will be soon well.

If a Land-Office is opened soon in this State upon the footing you mention, viz. of revenues only, Pennsylvania will have money enough for another and yet another campaign: there must be no condition of settlement as contended for by some; there should rather on the contrary, in my opinion, be a condition of forfeiture in case of settlement during the war, except by persons at present resident in the back Counties, for obvious reasons. To limit the quantity of land to be granted to any one person or family is useless and impracticable. The great object of a present sale must be the purchase money, and an increased fund for taxes the next year; and many foreigners may be induced to speculate in this way, and thereby become really interested in the event of the war, and in the prosperity of Pennsylvania in particular. I shall exert my best endeavors to have this work accomplished during the present session of Assembly, and that I may be enabled in future to attend to the affairs of this State only I have quit Congress yesterday,³ except to make a few reports. I have served my Apprenticeship, to wit, in *seven* Congresses.

I am greatly relieved by your favorable account of the Militia: those of the city must be much reformed since I had the command of a Battalion of them. There were then some of the most rude, turbulent, impudent, lazy, dirty fellows amongst them, that I had ever beheld; but I suppose they have chiefly gone into the army, or joined the Enemy. At any rate I feared you would have had much trouble with them. Congress have passed an Act, giving the Presidents and Governors of States the rank of Major Generals *in the Line*, whilst they are with the Army.⁴

There is an opinion entertained here, that the 2d Division was seen near Bermudas, and I have some hopes that it may be so. The Alliance, Captain Landais, is arrived at Boston—there are no official accounts received, but you may rely upon it, she has brought at least the following articles—10,000 suits of soldiers clothes; 50 tonns of powder; 20,000 stands of arms; many cannon, 18 and 12 pounders, besides other things we much wanted. Report speaks of larger quantities of each of the enumerated articles.

The notice you have been pleased to take of Mr. Sterett is very obliging to me: you will find him a young man of unshaken integrity, indefatigable industry, and of abilities beyond his years, accompanied with a becoming modesty.

I wish a continuance of your health, and a glorious campaign to

yourself and country, and am, my dear Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant,

RC (NHi: Reed Papers). In McKean's hand, though not signed.

¹ Joseph Reed's August 25 letter to McKean is in William B. Reed, *Life and Correspondence of Joseph Reed*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blackiston, 1847), 2:245–46.

² Horace, *Carmen* 2. 10. 17.

³ McKean did, however, return to Congress in the fall. He presided over an investigation into the conduct of the treasury department that was reopened in October, for which see Treasury Inquiry Minutes of Proceedings, October 9, 1780.

⁴ See JCC, 17:777.

John Armstrong, Sr., to Joseph Reed

Dear Sir

Philada. 30th August 1780.

Having been two or three days in the Country, I could not Sooner acknowledge the receipt of your favour from Trentown, but hope Mr. Henry has sent you the Resolution of Congress on the Subject of which you wrote, which if not done shall be inclosed.¹ Mr. Henry & my Self first formed & agree'd in the Resolution, the utility whereof at this crisis so easily gained the attention of Congress that it passed with little debate, and will we hope on all hands be acceptable. I need not enter into the principles whether of policy or of justice, wherein it is founded, as those must naturally occur to every dispassionate reader acquainted with our Situation.

The General has wrote Congress a very long letter where in he goes considerably into the politicks as well of Britain as America so far as they respect, or may tend to protract the present contest.² He enveys warmly against *Short* enlistments & ascribes many evils to that cause—tells us that next January he will have but the Shadow of an Army, thinks it ought to be filled up by drafts for the War, but that for less than One year is absurd—thinks that Congress must again assume the whole business of and providence of the Army at present 13 instead of One Congressional Army—Pays Pennsylvania a distinct compliment on that score but says the effects are bad, as other States are not prompted thereby to make equal provision. With regard to the present great Object his apprehensions are of the Sable kind, doubts the number of men, and Sufficiency of provisions & Forage—Shews they are now Obliged ungraciously to take in the Military way—That combinations are forming agst. taking Continental money—That the Officers arrears by depreciation must frequently be liquidated & *Certificates given them* for what cannot be paid—that *Resolves* of future justice will no longer do—&c &c.

Your Lady & Family are all well, and the Seat healthy & delightfull. For near a Week past I have been much indisposed, and obliged to

take a Puke for the better Operation of the Bark—Wrestling a little for the General Officers & the Army brought on a Slight fever followed by a Sick Stomack & want of appetite, which the fruit of the Vine failed to recover. There is a Capital Question respecting our Western extent & free Navigation on the Mississippi Suddenly to come on, in answer to a late letter from [Mr.] Jay³——if this were discussed, I hope to be at full liberty to retire, especially as Mr. McClane now attends—three good members at once in the House is sufficient. We hear that rather than return any of your Militia, the Genl. wishes you to Supply them from the County of Bucks. He mentions the middle of Sepr as the latest period for commencing the investiture of New York. If Competant numbers should appear to fail, what do you think of private intimations thro' some channel or other, for a certain distribution of *plunder*, under Some limitations?

I am Dear Sir with every cordial wish to you & the Young Gentlemen of your Family—Your most respectfull, humbl. Servt.

John Armstrong

[P.S.] I have yet heard nothing of Genl. Potter, nor of the back Militia.

31st. Before this reach you, some person in better health will inform you of the total defeat & dispersion of Genl. Gates's Army by Cornwallis,⁴ Mr. Burke writes that Gates was Obligated to fight or disband for want of provisions—my fever is now risen So high that I cannot add—only that Genl. Potter is come & I have advised his Stay a few days to get Some necessaries.

RC (NHi: Reed Papers).

¹ Reed's letter from "Trentown" is not in PCC, and "the Subject of which [*he*] wrote" can only be conjectured, but Armstrong may be referring to Congress' August 25 resolution concerning the rank of state executives when acting in the field, which was the product of a motion by John Henry. See *JCC*, 17:777–78; and Samuel Huntington to the States, September 3, 1780.

² A reference to Washington's letter to Congress of August 20, for which see Samuel Huntington to Washington, August 28, 1780, note 2.

³ See Roger Sherman to Oliver Wolcott, August 14, 1780, note 2.

⁴ See Samuel Huntington to Washington, August 31, 1780.

Samuel Huntington to Caesar Rodney

Sir,

Philada August 30. 1780

Enclosed your Excellency will receive a resolve of Congress of this Day recommending to the President & Privy Council of Delaware to permit Wm Murray Master of the Schooner Betsey & Nancy of Bermudas to export in the said Vessel to the Value of the present Cargo of Salt by him imported into that State; in Flour, Indian Corn or other Produce for the Use of the distressed Inhabitants of the said

Island, taking Security from him that the same shall not be applied to any other Use.¹

I have the Honor to be, &c, &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ See JCC, 17:780, 792, 795. Capt. Murray's August 25 petition requesting permission to exchange a cargo of salt for flour and corn in Delaware is in PCC, item 41, 6:191-94, along with the report of the committee to which it was referred on the 26th.

Nathaniel Peabody to Richard Bache

Sir

Morristown 30th Augt. 1780

I have Just recd a letter from the president of the State of New Hampr Complaining exceedingly, that Nothing is yet done with respect to establishing a post office in Exeter and directing the Post rider that way.¹ He observes that he had Lately Seen Mr Hazzard but obtaind nothing further than only that Mr. Flagg *condesended* to promise that the presidents Letters Should be so put up, as to be left at Hampton falls!! I leave You Sr. to Judge whether this was all the State had reason to expect from what had passed between you & me upon that Subject. And now Sir I have only to ask a particular favour that You must be so very obliging as to inclose to me your explicit determination upon the promises that the State may know what to rely upon And take other measures accordingly, for unless something is done that State will immedeately remonstrate against paying one farthing for the Support of the office. You will pardon my being thus, unjust upon this occasion, as it is a duty I owe to the State, I am censured for not haveing the matter Sooner Settled. The presidents Letter is very long & upon a variety of important Subjects or I would have Sent it to you, The Honble. Mr. Mathews who will deliver this Letter will Take Charge of any answers you shall be pleased to give. I have the honr to be Sir

FC (Nh-Ar: Miscellaneous Revolutionary Documents). In the hand of Nathaniel Peabody.

¹ The FC of Meshech Weare's August 8 letter containing this complaint is in the Weare Papers, MHi. See also Peabody to Weare, July 25, 1780.

John Armstrong, Sr., to George Washington

Dear General

Philada. 31st August 1780

Since my return to Congress in the latter end of May, few Weeks

have passed in which I did not intend the pleasure of writing you—Yet can the fault of Omission I now acknowledge be imputed to no other cause than the progressive languor and infirmity produced by an attention to business often perplexing in it Self, and a tedious debate with the dissolving heat of this City.

At present I know of nothing new, but an account Yesterday brought by a Vessel from the West Indies, that some British Ships of force has lately gone into the road or Port of St. Martins & there captured & carried off Several American Vessels—by Steps of this Sort the Dutch may at length be led to more than mere neutrality.

Little did I expect a few minutes ago that the nex[t] paragraph Shou'd convey you the melancholy intelligence which it contains, nothing less than an entire defeat & total loss & dispersion of the Southern Army—being confined to my Room I have not Seen Genl. Gates's letter, a Copy of wch. no doubt the President will Send you.¹ Mr. Burks Letter puts the misfortune wholly on the want of a Magazine of provisions, by saying in effect that Genl. Gates must either risque that battle or disband his troops, to which he adds there were favourable prognosticks by a Series of success in the Scirmishing way. Genl. Cornwallis was at the head of three thousand or more with a great Superiority of Horse. The advance guards began in the Night both Armies on the March & both it's said wishing to gain the Same ground—at day break the line was formed—the Virginia Militia supported by Armong [Armand's] Corps on the Left, N Carolina Militia in the Center—part of the Maryld. troops on the right & the residue as reserve near the Center. The left wing Militia & Center Suddenly fled & cou'd not be rallied & left the few Continentals Surrounded by Horse & foot. Genl. Smalwood is Said to be killed, Baron DeCalb wounded & a prisoner—Genl. Gates said to be pursued fifteen miles—Coll Armong pursued twenty five miles & killed thro' the failure of his Horses. Dismal as the best Story may be yet a little time will furnish a more accurate & perhaps better account, as when the express came off there was not a Shadow of an Army any where, nor any Magazines to repair to. I intended adding a few thoughts on the Objects of the Campaign and on the recall of the Committee from Camp but find my fever increasing & must desist—with respect to the last, take not the recall as matter of discouragement, but ask what your own consideration may dictate as necessary either of Congress or of a particular State, and if it can be had I think you will receive it.

I have with perfect respect the honor to be, Your Excellencys Affectionate, humbl. Servt,
John Armstrong

RC (DLC: Washington Papers).

¹ See Samuel Huntington to Washington, this date.

Samuel Huntington to the Chevalier de La Luzerne

Sir, Philada August 31. 1780

I have the Honor to acquaint you that in Order to furnish a sufficient Army to take the Field this Campaign Congress have been under the disagreeable Necessity to draw Bills of Exchange upon Doctor Franklin to the Amount of Dollars,¹ and in order that you may become fully acquainted with their Proceedings on that Subject I am directed to lay before you the Copies of the resolves of Congress herewith enclosed. A Committee of Congress will also have the Honor to wait upon you with a more particular & full Explanation on the same Subject.²

I have the Honor to be &c, &c, &c,

S.H.

LB (DNA: PCC, item 15).

¹ The "Amount" left blank here was \$304,105, the total authorized in the four resolutions enclosed with this letter. Huntington's letter to the French minister has not survived, but a translation of it, enclosed with La Luzerne's letter to Vergennes of September 3, 1780, is in *Archives du ministère des affaires étrangères: Correspondance politique, États-Unis*, 13:157. The resolutions enclosed by Huntington were those of May 19 (authorizing the Board of Treasury to draw \$25,000 on Franklin), August 9 (\$100,000), August 23 (\$150,000), and August 30 (\$29,105). *JCC*, 17:437-38, 713, 763, 794-95.

² See *JCC*, 17:723, 796. According to La Luzerne's dispatches to Vergennes, Congress had kept secret their decisions to draw additional sums on Franklin at Paris, and decided to send the committee on ways and means to explain the enclosed resolutions only after La Luzerne learned of the resolves from an informant and embarrassed Congress to come to him with an explanation before Franklin could appeal in person to the French court for funds to cover such drafts on him. The French minister hoped to use his conference with the committee to convince them of the necessity of seeking such aid from the Spanish court, which would undoubtedly require unpalatable American concessions to Spain on the southwestern boundary of the United States and the navigation of the Mississippi River. His meeting with the committee became quite acrimonious, however, and at one point John Morin Scott threatened that the United States would "renoncer a l'Independance" if France failed to provide adequate aid. Scott later retracted the threat, La Luzerne explained, but the sentiments expressed during the meeting left him apprehensive over American attitudes toward the Franco-American alliance. See *Correspondance politique, État-Unis*, 13:154, 169; and William E. O'Donnell, *The Chevalier De La Luzerne. French Minister to the United States, 1779-1784* (Bruges: Desclee de Brouwer, 1938), pp. 106-7, 160-61.

La Luzerne's September 1 reply to this letter, indicating that there was little prospect that Franklin would meet a favorable reception, is in PCC, item 95, 1:150-53; and Wharton, *Diplomatic Correspondence*, 4:44.

Samuel Huntington to George Washington

Sir, Philadelphia August 31. 1780

I have this Day received from General Gates Despatches, contain-

ing the disagreeable Intelligence of the total Defeat of the Army under his Command; Copies of which are enclosed.¹ A most unhappy Event, and unexpected immediately after the Intelligence we had just received of the several Advantages gained by our Troops in that quarter. We have no particular Account of the Numbers killed or taken. Report saith that Generals Smallwood & Gist and Colonel Armand are among the slain, and that Baron de Kalb is wounded & a Prisoner. We wish for more particular Intelligence than General Gates's Letter before it is published by Authority.

I have the Honor to be, with the highest respect, your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant,

Sam. Huntington President

RC (DLC: Washington Papers). In a clerical hand and signed by Huntington.

¹ Huntington's enclosures consisted of copies of Gates' August 20 letter to Congress and an August 15 letter from Thomas Sumter to Gates, which are in the Washington Papers, DLC. Gates' letter to Congress, which was referred to committee this day, is in PCC, item 154, 2:234-37. For Congress' response to Gates' letter, see *JCC*, 17:797, 802, 18:809-10, 812-13.

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A vintage-style illustration of a coastal scene. In the background, a church with a tall steeple stands on a hill. The middle ground shows a body of water with several boats, including a large sailing ship and a smaller rowing boat. In the foreground, a group of oxen is harnessed together, pulling a wooden sled or platform across a rocky or sandy shore. The overall style is that of a woodcut or a detailed line drawing.

[illegible]

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